

Public give police and ambulances quiet strike day

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Reporter

Police and voluntary services yesterday ensured that troops did not have to be called in to provide emergency cover in London during an unofficial strike by most of the city's 2,300 ambulances.

Police vans, St John's and the Red Cross ambulances, with 412 emergency calls, a reduction from the average 740 on a normal day, thanks to the successful appeals to the public and doctors to think long and hard before dialling 999.

Shop stewards are to meet tomorrow to consider further all-out strike action after winning support yesterday from crews at 61 of London's 76 ambulance stations.

Troops with 50 army ambulances were stationed at three London barracks but by yesterday evening police had not had to call on them.

Yesterday appeared an unusually quiet day for the ambulance service, the biggest in the world, covering a population of eight million.

Accident calls were reduced to 165 from a normal figure of about 245.

The main, though less dramatic, impact was on between 7,000 and 8,000 out-patients whom senior ambulance officers estimated to have missed hospital appointments because of the action.

Mr John Moss, chief operations officer of the London Ambulance Service, said: "I think the situation has been contained. This has been largely due to the media and appeals to the public to think before making an emergency call."

Mr Moss said that "for a matter of five minutes I held my breath" after a call to deal with an explosion at Fulham power station, in Townsmen Road. "In the event there were no people injured and it was a matter of firemen dousing things down."

The London convenors' nine-man committee had promised that they would allow normal working in the case of a disaster.

Mr Terence Pettifer, vice-chairman of the committee, said last night that senior shop stewards had been greatly encouraged by support for the stoppage, which he estimated at close to 90 per cent. It would be for the meeting of 76 shop stewards tomorrow to decide on any extension of the action.

Police also took over when ambulances in Tayside and Ayrshire staged the fourth 24-hour stoppage in Scotland within a week. In Dumfries, however, ambulances ignored the unofficial strike call.

Senior union leaders, who warned London ambulance men that yesterday's 24-hour all-out stoppage did not have official backing, are expected to hold exploratory talks at the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service tomorrow after outright rejection of the Government's offer of 6 per cent for this year or 7.5 per cent over 15 months.

That is the day on which all 17,000 of the country's ambulance men have been called on to back an official 24-hour ban on all work except accidents, maternity assistance and other emergency calls.

Mr Pettifer last night criticized union leaders for calling tomorrow's stoppage, which he said might provoke ambulance authorities into suspending ambulance men. The call could lead to a situation out of control of the unions and which would not be in the interests of the service.

Ambulance men in Birmingham, Swindon, Wiltshire, West Sussex and Grimsby have indicated that they are unlikely to take part in tomorrow's stoppage, while by contrast those in Scotland and West Yorkshire have said they will defy union advice by not even handling emergency calls.

Stations at which ambulance men worked normally were East Ham, Chase Farm, Fonders End, Edmondston, Tottenham and Round Green in the north-east, Hanwell, Greenford, Brentford and East Barnet in the north-west, and Chelsea, Westminster, Morden, and Twickenham in the south and west. Surrey ambulance men also declined to join the stoppage.

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Shirt-sleeved control officers and a doctor at London's ambulance control room yesterday.

Crisis controllers keep cool

By Richard Ford

The atmosphere at the nerve centre of the London ambulance service yesterday was cool, despite the strike action which left most of the capital without normal emergency cover.

There was no sign of anxiety or panic in the air-conditioned first-floor control room a few hundred yards from Waterloo station; nor was there a hint of anger among the control officers about their striking colleagues.

The 30 officers, immaculate in white shirts and dark uniforms, are veterans at dealing with crises. They have to take emergency decisions concerning life and death many times during a normal working day.

Yesterday was different, not only because of the action by the ambulance men, but also because of the steady stream of journalists wanting to see how the service was coping. Despite that, the loudest sound was the murmur of voices taking emergency telephone calls from every part of the capital.

The officers sat at three banks of switchboards below a huge map of London. As red lights flashed on the banks, indicating an emergency call, the officers answered, and then filled out a form and sent it to a controller.

His job was to alert an ambulance to go to the emergency. If there was not an ambulance in the area because of yesterday's action he passed the call on to Scotland Yard, to be dealt with by police, the Red Cross or St John Ambulance.

From time to time a control officer waved a pink slip in the air—an indicator to a duty doctor that he was needed for a second opinion on the urgency of the call.

In some cases callers had to be told there was a strike taking place. One wanted a plaster cast loosened and was told politely but firmly, that it could wait.

Dr Howard Baderman, aged 43, a consultant at the University College Hospital, walked shirt-sleeved round the room, his eyes alert for the pink cards showing that he was needed.

"We have had a series of elderly, bedridden patients, some of whom had fallen out of bed during the night, and they may in some cases have broken bones," he said.

"There have been two elderly patients who have terminal cancer and have rapidly deteriorated during the night, and a psychiatric patient who has been sitting in his group-practitioner's since six this morning. The doctor has been doing everything to find alternative transport for him and we will see what we can do."

Across the capital, at Camden ambulance station, in Cressy Road, the largest in the country, the telephone was also busy in the office of Mr Terence Pettifer, vice-chairman of the London Ambulance Service convenors' committee.

Mr Pettifer, an ambulance man for 11 years, sat at his desk overlooking the inside of the station, surveying the rows of immobile ambulances.

He told one caller from another station, "Thank you for your support and tell the men they have been marvellous. Remember to tell them that it is they who have made all this possible."

Outside, a group of ambulance men were on picket duty. None was in any doubt about the justice of the cause, although, as Mr Harry Seal, who has been in the service since 1952, said, if there is a major disaster our bosses know what will be there. "We couldn't just stand by. That's what the job is all about."

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Jailbreak: solicitors' detention criticized

From Christopher Thomas, Belfast

The detention of three solicitors after eight prisoners shot their way out of Crumlin Road jail, Belfast, on Wednesday, was criticized by the Council of the Law Society of Northern Ireland yesterday. The three men were released after 48 hours without charge.

A statement issued after a special council meeting said: "It is essential for the proper maintenance of the rule of law that there should be not only mutual confidence and respect between lawyers and police, but that lawyers should be able to represent all sections of the public without fear or favour."

"While the right and power of the police to investigate crime is fully accepted, it is a matter of the utmost concern and regret to the council that the police considered it necessary to invoke the powers invested in them."

The RUC said last night: "We only arrest whom we think necessary. We are entitled to do so."

Patrick Quinn, aged 29, from Belleek, south Antrim, refused to give a name to the prison yesterday, bringing the number of republicans on hunger strike to six.

He is serving 14 years for the attempted murder of members of the security forces.

Leaders of Ulster's peace movement, Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday, in a new attempt to break the H-block deadlock (the Press Association reports).

Miss Mary McCarrigan, one of the peace movement leaders, said before the meeting: "We are making a double appeal to the Government and to those involved in the hunger strike to find a way out."

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Claim that more curbs on unions would fail

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The task of Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, of reconciling the growing political conflict over trade union legislation was complicated yesterday by a joint management-union claim that more law would be counterproductive.

The Industrial Society, an independent body representing both sides of industry, told the minister: "Legislation will not help us solve the problems and may distract from them and exacerbate them."

In general the management-union body, which claims "enormous practical experience over wide areas of British industry", argues that the Employment Act, 1980, represents an "important change in labour law and should be allowed time to operate before any new legislation is contemplated."

Changing the law so that trade union funds would be at risk for unlawful activities by officials or members would not result in more responsible behaviour by trade unions, the society argues.

"In any event it could be self-defeating action: taking a legislative decision to crack the 10 per cent limit of official action while doing nothing to help, and perhaps exacerbating, the 90 per cent of unofficial action."

Responsible employers are unlikely to resort to the courts to obtain substantial damages from trade unions with whom they have long-term relationships.

The statement will fuel the controversy between the deputy curbs on the unions. It gives embarrassing support to Mr Prior's argument that there should be no more legislation on the unions until the 1980 union law is "worked itself through."

The minister is under pressure from Conservative backbenchers and some of his Cabinet colleagues to introduce a new Bill on union law early in the next session of Parliament, and his department's efforts have been directed towards minimizing the area for such legislation.

At most, it is thought, there could be further curbs on the closed shop and "secondary action" by trade unionists in support of other workers on strike.

The Industrial Society believes that the Government's 1980 Act has "gone too far" on provisions for immunity for secondary industrial action in trade disputes. "We feel very strongly that it would be foolish to change a law that has been a significant change and has not been tested."

On picketing, the society calls: "The proposals of the Green Paper largely revolve round a greater role for the police. Since even the police do not appear to wish this, it is most undesirable."

"From the practical point of view, companies have stated that the major problem of involving the police in industrial matters is that once started a strike or picketing cannot be easily stopped. Moreover, after the dispute has been settled a court hearing can open up all the old wounds."

The society suggests that secret balloting will not necessarily lead to fewer days being lost through official strikes, though it would not touch the more damaging area of days lost through unofficial action.

Legislation which is bound to be seen as provocative by trade unionists would not work in the long term. But if the Government is convinced of the use of the secret ballot as an aid to industrial relations, it might consider extending those measures into the public sector.

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Civil Service strike voting close

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

There was further evidence yesterday that voting by white-collar civil servants on calls for an all-out strike was running very close, as the Government indicated that a 7 per cent offer would be made to 150,000 industrial civil servants.

Voting at meetings of the 530,000 white collar staff is due to be completed tomorrow and union leaders predicted last night that the vote would favour a national strike by a narrow majority.

Voting in the largest union, the Civil and Public Services Association, was said last night to be running about two-to-one in favour of a national strike. Votes cast so far at meetings of the Society of Civil and Public Servants show 40-60, majority against such action.

A meeting in central London of 3,500 members of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, previously regarded as a moderate union, came down against all-out action by a 5-2 majority, but with half the members having voted at meetings throughout the country the overall results were described as neck and neck.

Most of the executives of the main unions are to meet tomorrow or on Thursday and will probably adjourn until after the meeting of the major policy committee of the Council of Civil Service Unions, which is expected to recommend either an all-out strike or intensification of selective strikes, depending on the voting.

Reports from those union meetings around the country show that little support for an all-out strike show that there is substantial backing for stepping up the selective strikes.

The council's policy committee meets this morning to receive reports of voting and union leaders will also have the latest estimates of the effect of their action against government revenues. They show that since the dispute started on March 9 the unions have held up £5,410m in tax receipts.

Union officials said last night that their action had led to "enormous jumps" in the money supply and that borrowing charges incurred by the Government on revenues stopped by the strikes was now running at more than £50m a week. These payments are for ever to the Government, the council said.

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Schools threatened by surplus places policy

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

More schools are likely to be closed as a result of a government drive to encourage local authorities to remove more than a million surplus places from schools within the next five years.

The Government estimates that every 10,000 surplus places taken out of use could yield savings of nearly £10m a year. A Department of Education and Science circular to local authorities, issued yesterday, pointed out that the school population in England and Wales was likely to fall from nine million in 1979 to under 7,500,000 before the end of the 1980s, despite the upturn in the birth rate.

The Secretary of State believed that there were good educational as well as financial reasons for getting rid of surplus places. Surveys by the schools inspectorate had shown that children in mixed-age classes did significantly worse than those in single-age classes, and that mixed-age classes were most commonly found in small primary schools of about 100 to 180 pupils.

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New safeguards on animal exports criticized

By Hugh Clayton, Agriculture Correspondent

Government plans to strengthen safeguards against cruelty to exported livestock have been dismissed as inadequate by the animal welfare movement. Two of the largest welfare groups have decided to continue their demands for a ban on livestock exports after seeing two proposed government orders that offer extra protection.

The two groups are the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, one of the largest animal charities in the world, and the Farm Animal Welfare Coordinating Executive, an umbrella organization of 12 welfare groups.

They are concerned about the lack of controls in a trade that has grown fast since Britain entered the EEC and is estimated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to be worth £100 million a year to farmers and dealers. Farm animals exported live from Britain last year included 370,000 cattle, 292,000 sheep and 298,000 pigs.

Commander Frank Milner, head of the special investigations section of the RSPCA, said yesterday: "The whole thing boils down to a lack of policing. We have found that there is no one to turn to for help when they journey on to goodness knows where. There is nobody out there doing any checking except our people. We have found that the beginning and our views have not changed."

Last week RSPCA staff had followed a consignment of calves which were not given water for almost 30 hours. "You would not dream of leaving a calf on a farm for 30 hours without sustenance", Commander Milner said.

Grant axe closes theatres

By Martin Huckerby, Theatre Reporter

Cuts in Arts Council grants have led to disaster for two theatres: the Overground at Kingston upon Thames is closing on July 4 after losing its grant from the Arts Council, Great Britain; Theatre Gwynedd, at Bangor, is due to shut down on August 29 after a heavy cut in its Welsh Arts Council grant.

The Overground, a 120-seat theatre, was one of 41 companies that lost Arts Council grants in December. Mr Alan Bryce, the codirector, said yesterday that the grant was being withdrawn because the council wanted to switch spending away from London and because of a lack of local council support.

"The town is going to lose out in the end", he added. At Bangor, Theatre Gwynedd has issued redundancy notices to seven full-time and 22 part-time staff, but it is still fighting against closure.

The Welsh Arts Council substantially cut its grant to the theatre and similarly reduced its support for Cwmni Theatr Cymri, the Welsh language company which uses Gwynedd as a base to tour Wales.

While Cwmni Theatr Cymri is not in immediate danger of shutting down, although it has had to cut back both its staff and programme, Theatre Gwynedd will not be able to continue without extra help.

Mr Elwyn Jones, the manager, said yesterday that they were trying hard to raise money from the local authorities. Donations had come from well-wishers.

"If it closes, the whole of this area of Wales will be deprived of year-round theatre", he said.

The Welsh Arts Council said it had cut the grant to Cwmni Theatr Cymri because it was unhappy with the company's cost-effectiveness; it had cut the grant to Theatre Gwynedd because it could not continue to fund the theatre.

It was looking for contributions from the University College of North Wales, which owns the theatre, and from Gwynedd County Council.

Appeal court clears chemist in prescription fraud case

A chemist given a 30-month jail sentence for alleged involvement with two doctors in a prescription fraud, was cleared by the Court of Appeal yesterday. The doctors, also given jail terms after pleading guilty to a plot to defraud Brent and Harrow Area Health Authority, had their sentences reduced and suspended, with the addition of fines.

The chemist, Sydney Solly Frankel, aged 40, of St Johns Wood, London, had his conspiracy conviction quashed and his sentence set aside.

Mr Frankel was jailed at the Central Criminal Court in April last year. He was allowed his appeal costs out of public funds.

Mr Barry Michaels, aged 46, of Brim Hill, East Finchley, and Dr Max Skobin, of Orchard Avenue, Finchley, had their 18-month sentences cut to four months and suspended for a year, and were each fined £1,000. All three had been jailed pending appeal.

Lord Justice Eveleigh, sitting with Mr Justice Kilner-Brown and Mr Justice Balcombe, said the three had plotted to share the proceeds of bogus applications for payments by the authority for drugs prescribed by the doctors at their Willesden practice and dispensed at Mr Frankel's shop near by.

Mr Frankel totally denied any fraudulent additions to the prescription forms, the judge said, and the doctors denied having acted for personal gain.

The Court of Appeal had to intervene, he went on, because Judge Gwyn Morris had been guilty of several irregularities at Mr Frankel's trial. The most serious was his decision to inform the jury of the doctors' guilty pleas.

On that ground alone, Mr Frankel's conviction would have to be quashed.

Judge Morris had rejected the doctors' claim that they had not acted for gain. Lord Justice Eveleigh said: "The judge was wrong to say that they had pleaded guilty on the basis that they wanted to increase their stock of drugs for use in emergencies."

Scarman tribunal on Brixton disorders

Police operation preceded riots, inquiry told



Demonstrators against the Scarman inquiry outside Lambeth Town Hall yesterday.

An intensive police operation aimed at combating burglary and theft was carried out in Brixton, south London, the week before riots left a "devastated and burning battle area", the Scarman inquiry was told on its first day yesterday.

At Lambeth Town Hall Mr Robin Auld, QC, leading counsel for the inquiry, outlined the events of April 10, 11, and 12 and said the hearing's terms of reference were to inquire into the events of that weekend and phase two with the policing of Brixton and areas like it.

Those represented by counsel at the inquiry, he said, were the Railton Road Youth and Community Centre, the Melting Pot Foundation, Brixton Neighbourhood Community Association, Brixton Domino Club, the Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police, community relations workers in Lambeth, and Concern.

Rioting went on for more than five hours on a line running from Brixton Road down Coldharbour Lane and Atlantic Road to the streets around Railton Road and Mayall Road, he said.

"Streets became ablaze with the fires of buildings and overturned vehicles set alight by the crowds. Shops, pubs and private houses were set alight and stripped and looted."

"Many have been injured, including police, who engaged in the fighting and bystanders. Some people were seriously injured, but fortunately none was dead."

Mr Auld said the trouble started on Friday, April 10, when from 6.30 to 7.30 there was serious street violence in Atlantic Road, Railton Road and adjoining streets, when a crowd of about 100 youths, mainly black, attacked police and drove away a police van and other vehicles.

The crowd was gradually dispersed by thirty to forty officers. The next day violence broke out again at 5 pm, this time on a vast and devastating scale.

Trouble broke out again at 5 pm on Sunday and continued until midnight. Serious rioting involving about two hundred youths took place outside Lambeth Town Hall. This time the trouble spread over a much wider area.

Well over 20 per cent and possibly 30 per cent of Lambeth's population was black, mainly of West Indian origin. The older generation were often content to put up with poor housing, but their children reasonably expected more from society.

Unemployment among Brixton blacks was nearly three times higher than for whites. By 1979 Brixton had more robberies than any other London area and by early 1980 it was worse. In the first seven weeks of 1980 there was a 78 per cent increase in robberies over the previous year, compared with 12 per cent for all of London. Burglaries were up 75 per cent and there was a 115 per cent increase in snatch thefts compared with 1978.

Mr Auld said: "Complaints have been made about the youth and inexperience of the officers involved in the rioting. It was said that young officers particularly had been high-handed in their attitude."

Of the 200 policemen in the Brixton division nearly half were aged under 22, and more than a quarter were probationers.

In the week leading up to the riots Operation Swamp '81 was launched. It involved police drawn from all over London and divisional crime squads. There were 10 squads of about 10 men each. Officers in plain clothes patrolled the streets from 2 pm until late at night for a week.

"Intensive use of powers of stop and search were used," Mr Auld said. The object was to flood identified areas of "L" District to detect and arrest robbers and burglars.

"Police were facing groups both in front and at the rear. The officer in charge Chief Supt Boyling ordered his men to beat truncheons and charge the youths."

There was ample evidence to suggest the use of petrol bombs was spontaneous, Mr Auld said. Two public houses were set on fire, and by the time police arrived the mob was looting shops and premises in Railton Road. The hostility and aggression shown towards fire and ambulance services were without precedent, Mr Auld said.

Mr Stuart Lansley, a Lambeth councillor, appealed to the police to disperse but Commander Fairburn was not prepared to concede a no-go area.

In Railton Road Chief Supt Robinson's men met the fiercest attacks. "Just about everything was thrown at the officers, bricks, bottles, tyres, milk crates, scaffolding poles and similar missiles."

There was some evidence that many of the looters had been involved in the riots. Among other offences that night were serious assaults, robbery, rape, damage to property and theft.

After five hours the riot subsided. Sunday morning was relatively quiet, but trouble flared again in the afternoon on fire, and by the time police arrived the mob was looting shops and premises in Railton Road. The hostility and aggression shown towards fire and ambulance services were without precedent, Mr Auld said.

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black youth who had thrown a petrol bomb at Atlantic Road and the windscreen and injuring an officer. The next day Brixton was alive with tension and with rumours that the youth who was taken to hospital had died.

Saturday night's violence began in Atlantic Road when a mini-car driver was questioned by two policemen. A group arrived and a man, aged 24, called on the officers to leave the driver alone. Officers alleged that the man pushed one of them and he was arrested. A growing crowd swayed the van.

The violence erupted 35 minutes later. A police van was overturned with other vehicles. Police were facing groups both in front and at the rear. The officer in charge Chief Supt Boyling ordered his men to beat truncheons and charge the youths.

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By about midnight some hundred police officers had been injured, 60 police vehicles damaged and 153 people arrested. During the weekend 172 civilians and 45 policemen were injured, some 20 buildings were destroyed or damaged by fire, 30 private cars were destroyed and 61 damaged; four police vehicles were burnt out and 118 damaged.

Fourteen firemen were injured and many of their 19 appliances damaged; one ambulance was injured and four ambulances were damaged; and 779 crimes were reported. The police employed 7,300 men during the weekend, of whom 6,500 were constables.

Mr Auld directed the inquiry to consider what groups of the community were responsible for the violence, burning and damage; the cause of the rapid increase in the disturbances; the role of the police and the use of shields; the media's effect; and the hostility to the emergency services.

Metropolitan Police Deputy Assistant Commissioner Leslie Walker, who is responsible for the Brixton district, was the first witness to give evidence.

Lord Scarman asked him: "With hindsight, does it seem to you that an operation like Operation Swamp could create serious problems for public order?"

Mr Walker replied: "There is always a risk, sir, but what does one do with the escalating crime rate? One must consider the ethnic groups, but something has to be done to protect the ordinary citizens of Brixton."

This brought laughter from the public gallery and Lord Scarman asked for restraint.

Mr Walker said it was not until after the riots that he knew of the existence of Operation Swamp '81, he said. It was a matter purely for the local commander. He visited the scene on Saturday evening and realized reinforcements were needed.

Chief Francis Nzeribe, the Nigerian millionaire businessman who said he had known Chief Nzeribe since childhood. Mr Unam, who has pledged £250,000, describes his business as "general trading"—importing, exporting and insurance.

Talks with ministers and civil servants had left him "confident that if a strong confidence we will get the money we need from the Government."

He said that in reply to a letter of his, Mrs Margaret Thatcher had welcomed the rescue programme and had encouraged him to go on with it. The Government's reaction was very positive, he said, and he wanted to look at more details.

Chief Nzeribe is putting up £1m for the project and announced at a press conference in Brixton yesterday that with pledges from other subscribers the total already available was £2.2m.

The subscribers include two white people who wanted to remain anonymous and a black businessman in the United States which had pledged technical support and \$250,000.

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Science report

Keeping step ahead of the bugs

By the Staff of "Nature"

Alexander Fleming, in that almost mythical story, discovered penicillin when a few fragments of fungus, producing penicillin molecules, landed on his dish of bacteria and killed them.

But most antibiotics are produced not by fungi but by bacteria. Now new groups of microbologists, in Osaka and in Princeton, New Jersey, have independently discovered certain penicillin-like substances which are indeed produced by bacteria.

The discovery is more than a curiosity. Bacteria go through many generations very quickly and are able to evolve means to avoid or destroy the antibiotics that man sends in large concentrations to attack them. New and better antibiotics are being sought to keep one step ahead of the bugs.

The new molecules, called monobactams by the Americans, are such a step. They should be able to slip past the defences of bugs which have developed resistance to penicillin and cephalosporin, another important fungus-produced antibiotic.

Exactly how the monobactams work is not known, but they share a certain active molecular kernel with penicillin and cephalosporin—a ring of four atoms called a beta-lactam ring.

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Thatcher 'welcomes jobs plan'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Chief Francis Nzeribe, the Nigerian millionaire businessman who said he had known Chief Nzeribe since childhood. Mr Unam, who has pledged £250,000, describes his business as "general trading"—importing, exporting and insurance.

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Faults found in Whitehall system of cutting jobs

By Peter Hennessy

Serious shortcomings in staff inspection methods used by the Civil Service Department for cutting manpower were made public yesterday in a memorandum prepared by Sir Douglas Henley, Comptroller and Auditor General, Parliament's spending watchdog. The document was released by the Commons Public Accounts Committee.

An investigation conducted by members of Sir Douglas's exchequer and audit department showed a marked drop in the number of posts recommended for abolition from 4,400 in 1977 to 2,500 in 1978. Of the 1978 quota only 37 per cent were implemented.

Sir Douglas's team also discovered that the three-year inspection cycle of departmental posts was not being achieved. A number of departments had slipped the rate to which staff inspection had slumped in the late 1970s, would take between seven and 28 years to complete their cycles.

Sir John Herbec, Second Permanent Secretary to the Civil Service Department, appearing before the Public Accounts Committee, accepted the gist of Sir Douglas's findings. He said that the department had conducted a review of staff inspection procedures in 1979-80 and matters had improved.

In 1980 staff inspectors earmarked 4,100 jobs for removal, of which three quarters had been implemented.

Sir Douglas's memorandum said the quality of staff inspectors should be improved and they should be subject to greater direction. "The Civil Service Department should restore its lost impetus for improving the standard and effectiveness of staff inspection across the service."

The Church Commissioners have found no suitable way of relieving the Church of England of the burden of supporting large and ancient bishop's palaces, despite the trend towards more modest accommodation for diocesan bishops.

Their annual report states today that they have a moral and legal responsibility to maintain these buildings because of their historic and architectural interest.

The 11 palaces or castles occupied by bishops, in addition to Lambeth Palace, are a main item of expenditure.

"Contrary to popular belief, most bishops do not live in a palace, let alone a castle," the report states. Half the houses occupied by diocesan bishops were bought or built since 1945, "and are often no more than large suburban houses".

They point out that most of the palaces now also house the diocesan offices, and in some cases other uses have been found for part of the space, to spread the cost.

The annual report states that the commissioners' total income increased in 1980 by 15.8 per cent compared with 1979, but the retail price index of 15.1 per cent. It draws attention to the possibility that that favourable situation may be more difficult to maintain in the future.

Police assaulted me in cell, man claims

From Arthur Osman, Solihull

A North Wales horse breeder who told magistrates at Solihull, West Midlands, yesterday that he was assaulted a year ago by a sergeant in the town's police station, claimed he had been advised to complain about it by a magistrates' clerk.

Mr Graham Aston, aged 47, of Lichfield Drive, Mariner Park, Prestatyn, Clwyd, claimed that Police Sergeant Donald Williams, of West Midlands police, hit him in the face through a trap in the cell door after he had asked for some valium tablets.

The sergeant, aged 30, of Dordon Close, Solihull, denies assault, occasioning actual bodily harm.

Mr Aston said he had been arrested at Prestatyn last June in connexion with a parking offence.

After he had been fined £15, he said, the magistrates' clerk allowed him from the court and asked how he had received a mark on his face just below the right eye.

The clerk had said: "This has happened here. Someone has been on the phone to Prestatyn and they confirmed you had no injuries when you left and the two officers who fetched you have said that when they delivered you you had no marks on you. A chief inspector would like to have a word with you."

Mr Aston, who said he made a statement to the clerk about the alleged assault, agreed that he had a number of convictions for dishonesty and false pretences, and said: "I have been in police cells before and I have never had anything like this happen. I have always been treated very fairly by the police. Everyone has their jobs to do."

He told the magistrates that he had not made a complaint at the time "because, to be honest, I was frightened. I thought if I did not keep quiet I might get some more."

Mr Aston challenged the right of Mr Michael Morris, for the defence, to read out his criminal record, but agreed about various convictions between 1943 and 1978. He complained to the magistrates: "This man has my police record, which is nothing to do with my case here. He has prejudiced me and I think it is wrong."

Mr Christopher Jones, for the prosecution, alleged that Sergeant Williams, who has been suspended from duty since January, had refused to give Mr Aston his valium tablets.

Mr Aston shouted something at him through the trap in the cell door and it was claimed that the sergeant returned and without provocation punched Mr Aston in the face.

Superintendent Derek Owen, of West Midlands police, said that Sergeant Williams had denied the assault and said: "In my opinion Aston has told malicious lies."

The superintendent said he knew nothing about alleged conversations concerning brutality in the cells or that there had been much of it going on. Another witness, Inspector William Guest, who took a statement from Mr Aston after he had made his complaint, also denied any knowledge about such a conversation.

The case continues today.

What occurred on Saturday is being carefully studied by the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis, and full account will be taken of it in future planning arrangements.

It is her Majesty's wish that both on state and less formal occasions she should be able to move freely among her people. (Cheers.)

Consistent with this everything will be done to keep the risks to a minimum.

There has been concern in the past about the misuse of replica firearms. Although the law provides severe penalties for their misuse, I have asked my department, together with chief officers of police to consider, as far as possible, what effective controls can be devised.

I am sure that the whole House will wish to put on record its admiration for the calmness and

control which her Majesty displayed throughout. (Renewed cheers.)

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Birmingham, Sparkbrook, Lab), said I express the relief of the Opposition that neither the Queen nor any of the other participants in or observers of the Trooping the Colour ceremony was injured as a result of the incident last Saturday.

I would associate Opposition with Mr Hattersley's expression of relief for the fact that the Queen reacted to the danger she faced (Cheers).

The Opposition wishes to applaud and support her own view that the day must never come when the Queen cannot walk freely among the people of the United Kingdom.

Such a policy may involve personal danger but we look to the Home Secretary to ensure that the risks involved are kept to a minimum and that the Queen is not exposed to unnecessary danger.

Mr Hattersley has reminded the House that last Saturday's incident is now sub judice. I hope that any proposals about tighter controls of firearms, real or replica, in the United Kingdom.

Mr Hattersley said that he was pleased that Mr Hattersley's view was widely held in this House and throughout the country, that the Queen's duties require her to be seen and heard, and that the move freely among her people.

I am also grateful to Mr Hattersley for his view that it is the Government's duty to ensure that the Queen is not exposed to unnecessary danger.

Of course, the main problem is to distinguish between realistic limitations and the millions of harmless children's toys.

Mr Hattersley also referred to the phrase sub judice. I am conscious that there are many who would not wish to see a failure to preserve a rule of such importance. I have no intention of giving them an opportunity to express criticism of me.

We shall move forward on the question of real and replica firearms on the basis that we can hope for a wide measure of agreement in the House.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party (Kosburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, Lib), also spoke.

Other sectors in Wales have stood up remarkably well.

Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarfon, Pl Cymru) said he was pleased that the Government had announced a programme of investment and to pay people for doing something like building new houses and roads in Wales, rather than leaving them waiting on the dole.

Mr Edwards: All programmes have to be paid for and we have got a substantial public expenditure and construction programme in Wales. This is by far the largest programme of site preparation, factory building and road construction ever undertaken in the Principality.

Mr Alec Jones, chief Opposition spokesman on Wales (Rhondda, Lib), said he was pleased that the figures he has just given and the fact that most knowledgeable people in Wales expect a worsening of the situation at the end of this year, with that remarkable weekend statement that Wales has slipped into recession.

Will he publish the evidence on which he based that statement or can he give us a more optimistic indication as to what the future holds?

Mr Edwards: I based it on the fact that the position in Wales has not deteriorated as fast as in the United Kingdom as a whole. We have in the previous year allocated nearly a record amount of new factories in Wales.

During the last few months of this year, the number of formal applications is up on last year, the number of enquiries is up, and in import countries, and we are assisting is up. Taken with the major package of expenditure on infrastructure, this holds out well for the future.

I am happy to be able to say that a company has just announced today that it is setting up a new factory in Wales. It is a very exciting prospect for the future of the industrial estate. This is one of

PARLIAMENT June 15 1981

Urgent review of law on replica firearms

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Mr Hattersley said that he was pleased that Mr Hattersley's view was widely held in this House and throughout the country, that the Queen's duties require her to be seen and heard, and that the move freely among her people.

I am also grateful to Mr Hattersley for his view that it is the Government's duty to ensure that the Queen is not exposed to unnecessary danger.

Of course, the main problem is to distinguish between realistic limitations and the millions of harmless children's toys.

Mr Hattersley also referred to the phrase sub judice. I am conscious that there are many who would not wish to see a failure to preserve a rule of such importance. I have no intention of giving them an opportunity to express criticism of me.

We shall move forward on the question of real and replica firearms on the basis that we can hope for a wide measure of agreement in the House.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party (Kosburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, Lib), also spoke.

Other sectors in Wales have stood up remarkably well.

Mr Dafydd Wigley (Caernarfon, Pl Cymru) said he was pleased that the Government had announced a programme of investment and to pay people for doing something like building new houses and roads in Wales, rather than leaving them waiting on the dole.

Mr Edwards: All programmes have to be paid for and we have got a substantial public expenditure and construction programme in Wales. This is by far the largest programme of site preparation, factory building and road construction ever undertaken in the Principality.

Mr Alec Jones, chief Opposition spokesman on Wales (Rhondda, Lib), said he was pleased that the figures he has just given and the fact that most knowledgeable people in Wales expect a worsening of the situation at the end of this year, with that remarkable weekend statement that Wales has slipped into recession.

Will he publish the evidence on which he based that statement or can he give us a more optimistic indication as to what the future holds?

Mr Edwards: I based it on the fact that the position in Wales has not deteriorated as fast as in the United Kingdom as a whole. We have in the previous year allocated nearly a record amount of new factories in Wales.

During the last few months of this year, the number of formal applications is up on last year, the number of enquiries is up, and in import countries, and we are assisting is up. Taken with the major package of expenditure on infrastructure, this holds out well for the future.

I am happy to be able to say that a company has just announced today that it is setting up a new factory in Wales. It is a very exciting prospect for the future of the industrial estate. This is one of

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If that is so, would the Lord Chancellor say it is at least the intention of the Government to legislate as soon as possible to prevent this once they are satisfied that it is practical way of doing this? (Cheers.)

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Burden of bishops' palaces

Israeli police ordered to prevent election violence

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, June 15

The presence of Israeli police at election rallies is to be stepped up immediately to counter an upsurge of organized violence with just over two weeks to go until polling day.

There were two serious disturbances last night when leading members of the opposition Labour Party were shouted down by supporters of Mr Menachem Begin the Prime Minister.

During the worst incident in the Tel Aviv suburb of Petah Tikvah, 18 people were injured and 26 arrested after fighting broke out. About 200 supporters of the ruling Likud coalition repeatedly interrupted Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, with a chant of "Begin, Begin, King of Israel".

Before the police and Mr Peres's bodyguards were able to restore order, the windows of a Labour Party office were smashed, some of the estimated 15,000 Labour supporters were attacked, a bonfire was lit and opposition party members were pelted with rubbish.

At the same time in the town of Ashdod, further down the Mediterranean coast, Mr Abba Eban, the Labour spokesman on foreign affairs, was suffering similar unruly and apparently organized interruptions by crowds of Government supporters.

He was eventually forced to ask the police to restore order. Commenting on the political violence, Mr Peres told a press

conference today that it had not surprised him as it had its model in meetings of the coalition Cabinet.

He accused Mr Begin of Khomeini-type tactics which were threatening to turn Israeli democracy into a regime of fear. Other Labour leaders expressed deep concern about the future of freedom of expression. Last night's incidents were the worst in a campaign which has grown steadily more acrimonious. Last weekend, two anti-Government campaigners organizing a petition in Tel Aviv were taken to hospital after being attacked and pelted with stones.

Joseph Burg, the Interior Minister, said election violence over the past week had been organized and he described the latest incidents as very grave.

In addition to ordering police reinforcements, he has asked all party leaders to urge restraint on their supporters and requested the Government to arrange immediate trials for those arrested for disrupting campaign rallies.

Although both main parties have attempted to put the blame on the other, the most serious incidents appear to have been caused by right-wingers. The amount of personal abuse traded has increased as the Likud first caught up and subsequently overtook Labour in the opinion polls.

One Labour advertisement shows an unflattering, first-hand picture of Mr Begin alongside a quotation from Mr David Ben-Gurion, the country's first

Prime Minister, claiming that Mr Begin was a "grave threat to Israel's external and internal position".

The Likud, meanwhile, has concentrated on singling out the alleged personal defects of Mr Peres, to such an extent that the Labour leader yesterday accused his rivals of character assassination.

A recent full-page Likud advertisement consisted of a quotation from Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the former Labour Prime Minister, who wrote in his autobiography: "I knew Peres, his character and his qualities. I did not believe one word he said. I was determined that if Peres should be elected Prime Minister, my foot would not cross the threshold of the Government."

Underneath was a photograph of Mr Peres and the caption "Look him straight in the eyes. Can you trust this man?"

The upturn in Mr Begin's fortunes were given another boost late this afternoon with the publication of the consumer price index for May which showed an increase of 3.3 per cent as compared with 10.7 per cent for the previous month, a statistic which has figured prominently in Labour campaigning.

Government officials pointed out that today's figure was the lowest monthly increase for some time and was also lower than any recent May figure. This factor is certain to be emphasized by Mr Yoram Aridor, the Finance Minister, who has been indulging in a policy of tax-cutting which the Labour Opposition has labelled "blatant electioneering".



A daughter wiping away her mother's tears of emotion when 7,000 Nazi death camp survivors met in Tel Aviv.

Ambassador attacks peace initiative

By David Spangler, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Shlomo Argov, the Israeli Ambassador in London, yesterday made an outspoken public attack on the European Community's peace initiative in the Middle East, which he declared was helping the enemies of his country.

He told the Diplomatic and Commonwealth Writers Association that the EEC peace effort, launched after the European summit in Venice last June, was doomed to failure if the Europeans kept on trying

to associate the Palestine Liberation Organization with it. The European Community must endorse the proposed autonomy talks for the West Bank as agreed at Camp David, if it was to have any hope of influencing Israel, Mr Argov said.

Lord Carrington, as Foreign Secretary, would be welcome in Israel but if he went as President of the EEC Council of Ministers he would, Mr Argov implied, be wasting his time.

He said that in spurning Israel's offer of autonomy for the Palestinians, Europe had done enormous damage to its credibility in Israeli eyes. "It is seen as pursuing its own fleeting economic interests at the expense of Israel's existential ones. It is looked upon as willing and anxious to provide Israel's enemies with every conceivable and inconceivable implement of war while effectively denying Israel access to its armories."

Moi calls for OAU to focus on economics

From Michael Knipe, Nairobi, June 15

A gentle call for African leaders to concentrate with more determination on the economic challenges facing the continent was made here today by President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya.

Opening a meeting of foreign ministers which will draft the agenda for next week's eighteenth annual summit meeting of the Organisation of African Unity, President Moi said the successes in the struggle to liberate the continent from foreign domination meant that Africa's leaders had the opportunity and the duty to work more deliberately for the economic independence of the continent.

This in turn, he said, would be the forerunner of enhanced social justice and human welfare. Africa faced a catalogue of economic problems—food deficits, severe shortages of foreign exchange, continued resources were exploited for the lack of success in ensuring that the continent was not increasingly difficult urban problems.

"We must now move away from talking and into the arena of action," the Kenyan leader said, "because these difficulties have been debated for many years." The continent would continue to be exploited by others until it had intensified development and diversified its economies. Being a member of the Third World did not mean always occupying third place, he said to applause from the assembled delegates.

Another problem facing the continent, President Moi said, was that of refugees. This crisis was assuming alarming proportions. Africa was grateful to the foreign countries that had provided tangible assistance, but

practical aid was not in itself an answer.

A solution could only be sought through establishing conditions conducive to peace, love and unity. "To me it is a matter of great disappointment," Mr Moi said, "that so many African people, having struggled hard to attain independence, should go on suffering now as refugees."

As usual in OAU deliberations, the continuing liberation struggle on the continent received primary attention in the Kenyan leader's speech. He emphasized the organization's commitment to the winning of independence for Namibia and the fight against apartheid in South Africa.

While the door remained open for a peaceful settlement in Namibia, he said, the Pretoria Government had to be propelled to the negotiating table by events on the battlefield.

With regard to South Africa itself, he condemned the greed and hypocrisy which caused some countries to ignore the evils of apartheid, and to collaborate with the Pretoria regime. Africa did not relish violence, Mr Moi said, but the facts showed that armed struggle, with all its costs and sacrifices, seemed to be the only way to achieving human rights and justice.

In accordance with the OAU's practice of giving prominence to the liberation movements in their midst, the response to President Moi's speech was made by a representative of the Pan Africanist Congress of South Africa who criticized the United States for offering overt support for the apartheid regime.

Troops ready for Namibia

UN forces still keep peace after 32 years

From Michael Leapman, New York, June 15

When, at the end of last month, Israel and Syria seemed to be on the verge of war, the mandate for the United Nations observer force in the Golan Heights came up for renewal by the Security Council. If the two countries had really been keen to grab each other by the throat, it may have been thought that they would have wanted the peace-keepers out of the way and so would have opposed any renewal.

Far from it. They gave an early indication that the continuation of the force was all right with them, and the resolution was passed by 14 votes to none, with China abstaining as usual.

In the same way, the mandate of Unifil, the 6,000-strong peace force in Lebanon, is likely to be renewed next week without much debate, despite Israel's attack on the Israeli nuclear reactor. Last week the council gave another six-month term to the 2,462 troops in Cyprus, where the issues are less immediate, but still contentious.

Mr Brian Urquhart, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations in charge of peace-keeping, says: "One of the great attributes of peace-keeping is being there. The point is for them to be there so the people have an excuse to stop fighting." Or, in the case of Israel and Syria, not to start again.

Mr Urquhart, a small, bouncing Englishman of 62, has been with the United Nations since its inception. Now, in the map-room off his office suite on the thirty-eighth floor of the headquarters building in Manhattan, he oversees the burgeoning role of his peace-keepers.

On a black notice-board at one end of the room, the facts and figures of the five current operations are set out in white letters and numbers, the same as those used to denote dishes and prices on the menu in the canteen 34 floors below. I made the point that the board seemed full, that there would be no room for any other peace force in the world. "There have been examples, if agreement should be reached on establishing one there."

"Oh yes," he replied chirpily. "We can always push them up and make room underneath." He pointed to a blackboard below the statistics for the Golan force. "We can put it there. Today's special."

Israeli patience with Habib mission running out

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem, June 15

With Mr Philip Habib, the American special envoy, due back in Israel later this week, there is a growing feeling in political circles here that Israeli patience with his mission is beginning to run out.

The clearest indication of the Government's attitude was given last night, when Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, told an election rally that Israel would itself remove the Syrian missiles if Mr Habib brought a negative answer about Syria's willingness to remove them from Lebanon.

Although Mr Begin repeated an earlier pledge that such a military move by Israel would not lead to war, he said clearly that both the chief-of-staff and the commander of the northern front, were "ready".

His remarks reinforced speculation that any strike against the missile sites is likely to involve a military operation on the ground, as well as in the air.

Unconfirmed press reports have said that this week's visit by Mr Habib will be the last

which the Israeli Government will contemplate before carrying out its threat to act against the missile sites in Lebanon and those recently erected along Syria's border with Lebanon.

□ Damascus: Syria is planning to build a nuclear power plant to generate electricity and reduce the high cost of importing fuel. Dr Omar Yusuf, the Syrian Minister for Electric Power, said today (Reuters reports). He made the announcement at the opening session of the first Arab nuclear conference taking place in Damascus just over a week after Israeli jets destroyed an Iraqi nuclear reactor outside Baghdad.

Also taking part are government and scientific organizations from Britain, Belgium, France, West Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States, along with representatives of the Arab League and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

A spokesman for the Syrian minister said the conference would discuss the pros and cons of nuclear energy usage.

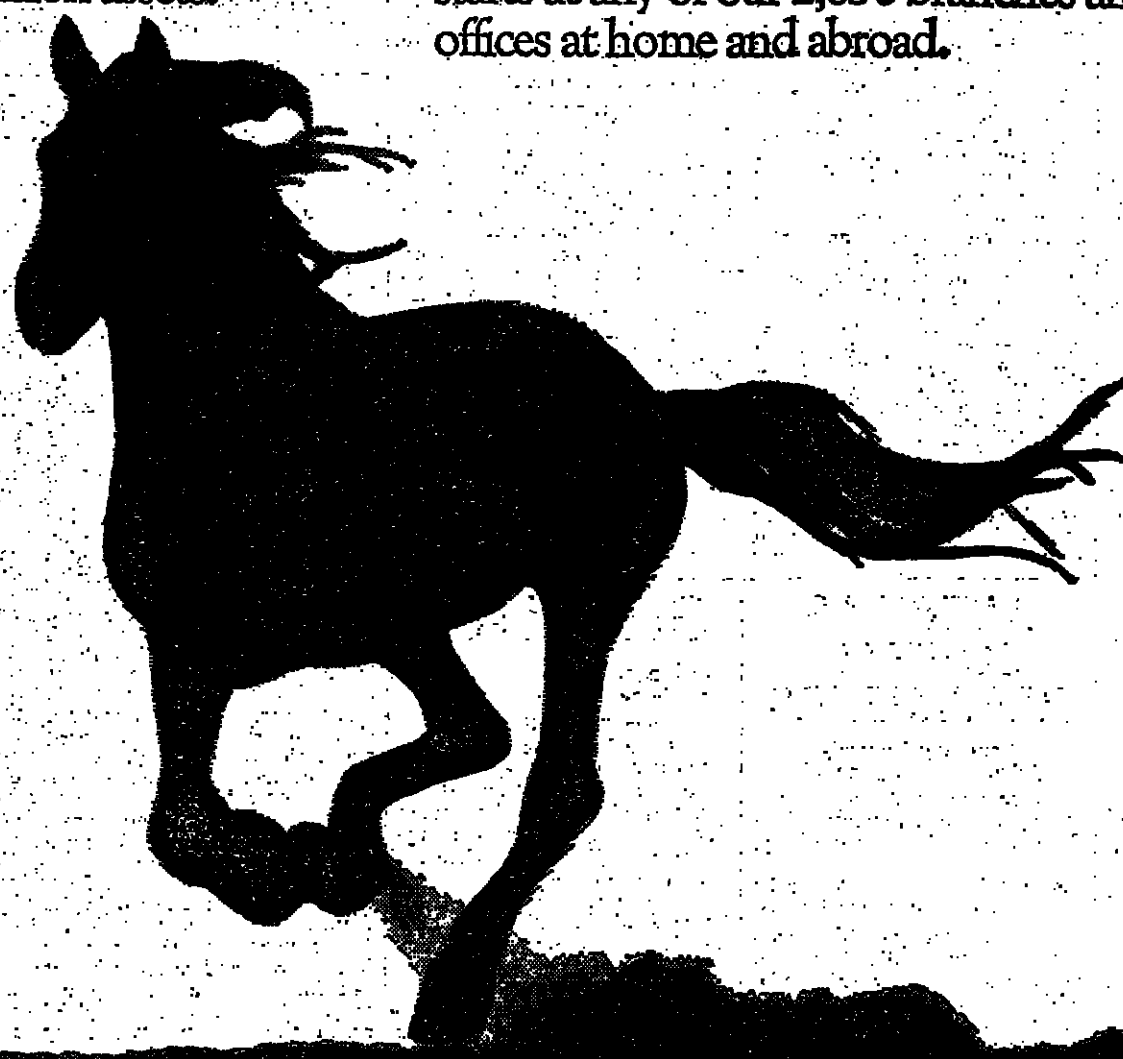
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At the sign of the Black Horse

Pink tide sweeps France thanks to de Gaulle's system

From Charles Hargrove and Ian Murray, Paris, June 15

France has been swept by a pink tide. In the first round of the parliamentary elections yesterday the Socialist Party vote was 13 per cent higher than in the first round of the presidential election last month and 15 per cent higher than in the parliamentary elections of 1978.

The left as a whole rose to heights it has never achieved at the polls since the foundation of the republic more than a century ago.

By one of those strange ironies of history, the Socialists, whatever the outcome of next Sunday's run-off ballot, have now achieved the dominant position in the Fifth Republic which was occupied for so long by the Gaullists, thanks to the institutions bequeathed by General de Gaulle.

The logic of the presidential system he instituted imposed itself triumphantly on the majority of French voters. They had elected a Socialist President; it made sense to them, therefore, to elect a Socialist majority in the National Assembly.

Appeals to them to "correct" their vote of May 10, to hedge their bets by returning the right-wing Majority, fell on deaf ears.

They had been told for years by the Gaullists and Giscardians that a President and Parliament at loggerheads would lead to constitutional chaos. They would not believe these guardians of Gaullist orthodoxy when they claimed with the same insistence that this was the only way to national salvation, merely because a left-wing President had taken the place of a right-wing one.

France has swung to the left. A clear majority of the voters want a change. The first ballot of the parliamentary elections was conclusively in favour of the election of M. Francois Mitterrand was not simply a rejection of M. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and his brand of liberal conservatism.

Significantly, the voters were not under the spell of the Communist spectre, agitated vainly by the right. It had been exercised by the historic—the word is not too strong—decline in the Communist vote for M. Georges Marchais on April 26.

If that decline is permanent, as yesterday's poll would sug-

gest, it could have immense consequences for the future course of French politics. Without the Communist incubus, democratic change in this country no longer takes the form it has assumed for the past 23 years—a blind leap into the unknown, a deliberate choice for revolution rather than reform.

The swing has been so sharp, the Socialist landslide so complete, that practically everyone—except, of course, the losers—tends to forget that the electoral game is not played out: there will be a second ballot in a week's time.

The outgoing majority hopes that voters, and especially the unusually large number—29 per cent—of those who stayed away from the polls yesterday, will be awakened from their lethargy.

The electorate could behave, as it did in 1967, when the Gaullists, in the first round, polled exactly the same percentage as the Socialists yesterday, and thought they were home and dry with 100 seats more than the left, only to find a week later that they had a majority of one.

It could come to the conclusion that the Socialist triumph, like the Gaullist's was too complete, and they needed to be cut down to size. But history never quite repeats itself, not even in France, which seems to move forward only on the strength of historical precedent.

The situation today is different from what it was 14 years ago. Then there was a strong opposition party in the centre, in the shape of the Democratic Centre, whose followers in the second ballot tipped the scales in favour of the Socialist and Communist alliance. Today, the outgoing Gaullist and Giscardian majority has such a large reserve of votes to call upon next Sunday.

The pink Socialist tide has swamped the whole country, penetrating into those regions, particularly the centre and the east, regarded hitherto as bastions of the parties of the right; and into the northern, south-eastern and Parisian strongholds of the Communists.

Marchais on April 26.

If that decline is permanent, as yesterday's poll would sug-



Gaullist leader, ever ready to criticize the inevitable cost of the Socialist programme.

It is the Communist Party which is going to find it most difficult to get up off the floor. If Georges Marchais, the Communist Party leader, asked last night if his party was in decline, he replied angrily that such questions "make me see red." Even so he admitted that French communism was going through a difficult phase.

French politics appear to have begun to polarize into a two-party system. The victory of President Mitterrand in the presidential contest had already forced the right into an electoral alliance. The first round results of the parliamentary elections, now that the Communist Party has been

smashed apart, leaving the Socialists the masters of the left.

If the alliance on the right is an uneasy one, there is no doubt that M. Chirac has been confirmed as the only credible leader of the new opposition. On the left, the Communists find themselves so dominated by the Socialists as to have even given up demanding the right to representation within the Government.

This polarization has resulted in the election of an exceptionally high number of candidates in the first round, by dint of scoring over 50 per cent of the poll in their constituencies. This occurred in 156 out of the 481 seats, while in the 1978 elections it happened in only 53 seats.

Overall, the left scored 55.77 per cent, which is without precedent in French history. Given that at the same time the Communist share of the vote was at 16.18 per cent, the lowest since the war, the scale of the Socialist landslide is obvious.

The Gaullists scored 20.91 per cent compared with 19.10 per cent in 1978. The electoral system, however, means that they are likely to have far more seats than the Giscardian UDF.

The electoral system is being blamed by the Communists too for their poor showing. They believe that there must be some kind of proportional representation if parliamentary elections are to be truly democratic. In this they could well win a sympathetic ear from President Mitterrand, who is known to

favour some kind of national list for parties in addition to the constituency candidates.

In all events, the score of the Communist Party as the most significant result of this first round. In the 58 seats they were defending, they have been beaten in 46 by a Socialist candidate, who will now almost certainly win the seats.

With his own election apparently so overwhelmingly confirmed, President Mitterrand does not intend making any direct appeal to the public before the next round of the elections.

Barring an improbable reversal of the trend next Sunday, M. Mitterrand has got the tailor-made Parliament which he has sought.

William Safire: A Personal View

The secret musings of Comrade Deng

And so another American Secretary of State comes to visit our Middle Kingdom, trailing the running puppets of the media who obey his orders to identify his views as those coming from a senior official.

Haig's reason for coming to Peking is to threaten the Russians with the possibility that Chinese-American friendship could turn into a military alliance, which infuriates them. He comes also to persuade China not to worry about its too-soft willingness to begin arms control treaty-making with the Russians, which infuriates us.

In visions as rough and rosy as the skin of a Jitchi nut, Haig will talk to us of strategic consensus against what we have long identified as the Soviet southward offensive—through the Persian Gulf and India in the west, and through Vietnam and Cambodia in the east.

I will listen, and shrug, and then I will force the Americans to huddle themselves as they did in the Carter years by acceding completely to our wishes about Taiwan. It will persuade the Americans that black is white—that our desire for Taiwan is greater than our fear of the million Russian troops on China's border.

If I know Americans, they will respond by cancelling plans to sell modern aircraft to Taiwan. Then, to justify selling Taiwan any arms at all, Haig will offer up the barbaric fruits of military technology.

I will do him the great favour of "accepting." The Americans feel a strange urge to pay for what is obviously a parallel interest. After Iran fell to the fanatics, Americans offered us tons of surveillance equipment and computers to replace Iran as the world's leading Soviet-watching station. It is an open secret that all we have to do is provide the Chinese technicians to operate the machines and to give the Americans only that information we wished.

The American officials will tell their people that China really does not want arms technology, only industrial help. Fine—we must not appear eager. When my de-

fence chief, Geng Biao, went shopping at the Pentagon, all he specifically requested was the Casaca business jet, supposedly for photo reconnaissance. (In truth, my generals want to fly around in executive jets.)

To satisfy my army, and to defend China in ways we can afford, I need the kind of military technology we can copy and produce here. Of course, I am too sophisticated to believe that a diplomat like Haig, with no political power base, can deliver all he promises. I know that in America, the right wing of the right wing can obstruct the transfer of arms technology because they fear it might be used against the United States one day. Accordingly, I have directed our ambassador in Washington to invite eight members of the powerful Madi-Sen Xituan to China.

Unlike Haig, they will want to know how America will benefit directly from giving us some arms technology. I can hear their questions now: Will China increase its aid to Pakistan to guerrilla fighting the Russian invader in Afghanistan? What will China do to penetrate the Soviet threat to the Saudis in South Yemen?

I will do as little as I can and as much as I must. Before I die—and I cannot hide the shaking of my hands from any visitor, though I will outlast Brezhnev—I want to see China become the fulcrum between the barbarians of the East and West, always helping the weaker to protect China against the stronger.

In February, 1982, we will celebrate the tenth anniversary of our first playing of the foreign game. I have already invited Richard Nixon and expect him to come. Next I will invite President Reagan, who by next year will have to think about personal involvement in foreign affairs. It would be nice to have Reagan and Nixon here in Peking together, with Kissinger too, and maybe Ford.

The Russians will have fits. The Americans will be in our hands. With Chinese mind, one need not be a superpower to shape the destiny of the world.—New York Times News Service.

Snow boots for summer beaches

From Michael Binyon

Moscow, June 15
Summer has come, and Soviet holidaymakers are getting ready to bask on the beaches, swim, play handball and make the most of the sun. The shops have their latest stock in, but bewildered citizens find this consists entirely of sledges, skis, fur coats and thick boots.

Throughout the country department stores have opened special summer holiday sections, brought in extra sales assistants, put up advertisements. All in vain: there are plenty of advertisements but the counters are bare.

There are no bathing costumes, blouses, shorts or summer dresses. Fishermen, search in vain for rods, lines and rubber dinghies. Instead of sandals, shoe shops are selling skates and galoshes.

A recent survey of the main stores in big towns revealed a bizarre picture: Nothing suitable for the beach was on sale anywhere. And even the few pairs of light shoes, enticingly called "Breeze" and "Fan" were so shoddy that they had come unstuck on the counters.

Sportsmen fare no better. Even Gum, the vast store in Red Square was offering handballs made of solid rubber, badminton rackets only in children's sizes, sportsware that unravelled the moment it was worn.

But there were plenty of overcoats and traditional felt boots to keep out the snow. One shop in a town near Leningrad did a brisk trade last month in artificial fur.

Kiosks specially set up for the summer on the sandy beaches of the Black Sea resorts were turning away thousands coming with unreasonable demands for sunglasses, Panama hats and bathing costumes. And children waiting bicycles and models, while grown-ups on Sunday hikes had to make do with tiny toy trucks strapped to their backs.

A Soviet newspaper dared to ask various shop managers the reason for their unseasonable stock. The answers were always the same: "It's not our fault. We cannot get what we need from the factories." The Trade Ministry in Karelia, about a million women's bathing costumes, but the whole republic had to make do with 24,000.

Marvelling that beachwear went on sale when the temperature fell to -20°C while snowshoes were offered in the Crimea in July, the paper suggested that shops set up special sections for seasonal trade. The suggestion was dismissed as ridiculous. "Where do we get the assortment from," one shop manager asked.

The blame, he said, lay with the factories, who ignored the calendar and produced whatever was most profitable in December, fur hats in May and went down to the beach in felt boots.

Pakistan gets \$3000m in arms from America

From Hasan Akhtar

Islamabad, June 15
The United States is to sell Pakistan immediately an unspecified number of F16 fighter-bombers and will provide a further \$2,000m (£1,500m) worth of military equipment over five years, some as economic aid.

A joint statement in the talks between Mr James Buckley, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for Security Assistance, and Mr Agha Shahi, Pakistan's Foreign Minister, over the weekend was issued. There today, it said that while the United States assistance package was subject to Congressional approval each year, the United States Government agreed to the early delivery of the defence equipment urgently needed by Pakistan for its war against the Soviet Union.

Mr Shahi refused to disclose what a equipment Pakistan would receive from the United States nor would he reveal the number of F16 aircraft Islamabad, expected to be delivered soon. He said Pakistani military experts would visit the United States in about two weeks time to finalize the purchases.

He explained that the defence equipment Pakistan required would be outside the proposed five-year package which would come into effect in October next year subject to the approval of the Congress. The urgent purchases would be the value of the anticipated military and economic assistance to more than \$3,000m.

The estimated value of immediate purchases was not given although the Pakistan Foreign Minister disclosed that part of the price would be paid for by the "right friends" who the most observers believe refers to Saudi Arabia in particular.

Mr Shahi said that Pakistan would pay the market price for the equipment with credits at the prevailing rate of 14 per cent.

ALERT AS SOWETO REMEMBERS

From Ray Kennedy

Johannesburg, June 15
Police and troops are standing by to move tomorrow into Soweto, outside Johannesburg, where five years ago riots erupted that left nearly 600 blacks dead, most from police bullets.

Troops, mainly white conscripts, were called in two weeks ago to cordon off Johannesburg's coloured townships after riots resulting from the detention of a student leader during South Africa's official celebrations of its twentieth anniversary as a republic.

The authorities are taking no chances that the Soweto anniversary—labelled a day of mourning by Black Consciousness groups—will turn into a serious disturbance.

During the weekend, Soweto and other black townships in Johannesburg and Pretoria areas were cordoned off by roadblocks manned by police and troops.

All vehicles were stopped and searched and police said today they had made 144 arrests for crimes ranging from having stolen property to drunken driving and public indecency. More than 1,000 summonses had been issued for various offences.

Gandhi son elected

From Trevor Fishlock

Delhi, June 15
Mr Rajiv Gandhi, son of Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, was elected to the Indian Parliament today with a by-election majority of 237,000.

It was no surprise that he should win the Amerli seat, in Uttar Pradesh, which was held by his brother Sanjay who was killed a year ago. But the size of the majority was especially handsome and was to some extent a tribute to Mr Gandhi's exhaustive campaigning.

Security forces in the Philippines shot dead four people at an opposition rally last night during final campaigning for tomorrow's presidential elections.

The violence marred what has been a largely peaceful election campaign despite the threat of disruption from Muslims and more moderate opposition to President Ferdinand Marcos who is seeking a further six-year term.

About 25 people have been arrested in connection with the election campaign with bombings of



Ayatollah Khomeini declaring that the independence of Iran depends on the independence of its universities, when he addressed a meeting at the Cultural Revolution headquarters in Tehran.

Series shows there is no defence Nuclear holocaust goes on TV

From Michael Leapman, New York, June 15

Last night we lost Omaha, blasted from our television screens by a 15 megaton simulated atomic explosion which left charred bodies all over the landscape. Tonight they are promising to do the same to some European cities ("Warsaw, Paris, Berlin...") and by the end of the week there will be little left of the world as we know it.

The Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) is devoting an hour on five successive nights this week to a terrifying series of documentaries called *The Defence of the United States*. The message of the first episode last night was that there is no defence against vast casualties in a nuclear attack.

Afterwards the burnt-out shells of skyscrapers towered above the rubble in the silent city centre. Blackened, unrecognizable bodies lay among them. These in one sense, were the lucky ones. Within a few days, we were told, one and a half million people from the surrounding area would die from the effects of radiation.

The people of Omaha were interviewed and asked what it felt like to be a likely prime target. "What can we do?" asked one woman. "You say a prayer, that's all."

In order that none of us should feel safe, the programme included a map of the United States showing scores of cities which, because of their concentration of industry or their strategic importance, would be among the first targets of a multi-target strike. But, for comfort, an admiral commented: "The Soviets lost 20 million Russians in World War Two and they survived."

One expert pointed out that because Soviet population centres were more scattered, fewer Russians than Americans would die in the initial missile exchange. However, the Russians have a more centralized industrial base so it would be easier to destroy their economy and make life unbearable for survivors.

Omaha, in Nebraska, was chosen as the purported target for a Soviet missile attack because it is the headquarters of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) which controls American missiles aimed at Eastern Europe. The actual nerve centre of SAC is comparatively safe, buried three stories below ground, but everything and everyone on the surface for miles around would be obliterated. More than two million people would die.

Two New York physicists were employed as consultants on the effect of the attack on the city and with their help a realistic animated film was made showing the explosion and its aftermath.

The basic technique of the programmes, which took nine months to make, is to look at defence from the point of view of people primarily involved: the soldiers, sailors, airmen and Pentagon officials. Thus the cameras went to a missile site in North Dakota to talk to a young airman, who looked to be in his twenties, one of two men in charge of launching missiles against Russia.

The interviewer asked him whether he felt overawed by the responsibility of being in charge of such devastating weaponry. "It is a definite challenge," he replied. "It's more responsibility than I could obtain in a civilian world. To me that is job satisfaction."

Then he was asked whether he knew the targets for the missiles he might one day have to send on their journey east. He did not. "I don't have a need to know to start with. Secondly, I'd feel kind of emotional about what kind of people I'd be destroying."

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The operation is to close the artificial anal opening in the colon made during a live-and-a-half hour operation after the shooting. The sources said the Pope will use the same doctors and the same hospital, Genet Policlinico Hospital in Rome, as in his first operation. Recovery is expected to take about a month.—AP.

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Discord at Unesco conference

From Ian Murray

Paris, June 15
Work on drawing up an international programme for the development of communication got stuck on the second item of the agenda today at Unesco, in Paris.

The problem was to find a compromise candidate to sit as chairman. The chairman has to be acceptable to the West, the Soviet block and the developing countries.

A series of private meetings of the different groups followed the opening address by Mr Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, Director-General of Unesco, who has made a personal crusade to set up a new world information order to challenge what he describes as the "Western supremacy in news-collecting and distribution."

The longest and most difficult private meeting was one involving the seven Western nations with Japan to try to select a candidate from among their number. In the end, with the exception of Norway, they agreed to back M. Jean d'Arbo, a member of the French delegation.

Mr Gunnar Garbo, the head of the Norwegian delegation, insisted on letting his own name go forward. He is thought to have wide support from among the developing countries and is on good terms with Mr M'Bow, who recently toured Scandinavia.

At the same time, the Western block is increasingly concerned that to give way to Unesco's proposal would not only make it more difficult for Western journalists to work, but would ignore the plight of Third World journalists, who often have to work with little or no equipment.

There is behind the meeting a sense of frustration on the part of the Third World countries that so far after 10 years of argument within Unesco, nothing practical has been achieved. It is being held about a change in the news and information balance.

The meeting is to approve the historical document, formally affirming that Mao's mistakes were secondary and his achievements primary. Diplomatic sources said other items on the agenda were expected to include the nomination of a new general secretary in succession to Mr Hu Yaobang, thought likely to be Mr Peng Cheng, and some changes to the 11-man party secretariat.

Economic policy would also be discussed and a new advisory council of elders might be set up for ageing leaders, who traditionally in China consider full retirement to be a loss of face.—Reuters.

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Suzuki plays on trade divisions within the EEC

From Michael Hornsby, Luxembourg, June 15

Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Japanese Prime Minister, opened the second week of his European diplomatic offensive with talks in Brussels today with Mr Mark Eyskens, his Belgian opposite number, and Mr Gaston Thorn, the President of the European Commission.

Accompanied by Mr Susao Sonoda, his Foreign Minister, Mr Suzuki is hoping to head off concerted western pressure to reduce the Japanese trade surplus which he sees leaders of the six other big non-communist industrial nations at the Ottawa economic summit next month.

Mr Suzuki left Japan on June 9 and was in Hamburg and Rome last week. After an audience with King Baudouin tomorrow, he flies on to London where he will have talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher on Wednesday. He will also visit The Hague and Paris before arriving back in Tokyo next Sunday.

Mr Suzuki is taking a lofty view of his European tour, putting much emphasis on the common values shared by Japan and the western democracies and the need for them to "pool their efforts and work together for the peace and stability of the world."

The main concern of his EEC hosts is more prosaic: Community trade deficit with Japan that totalled \$11,000m (£5,500m) last year and rose by 46 per cent in the first four months of 1981.

EEC governments are pressing the Japanese both to increase their imports of European manufactured goods, and to reduce their exports of sensitive items such as cars, colour television sets and tubes and certain types of machine tools.

During the first quarter of this year, EEC imports of Japanese colour television sets rose by 40 per cent and passenger cars by 18 per cent and colour television tubes by 7 per cent, according to European Commission figures.

Hurd puts case for Trident

From Ian Murray, Paris, June 15

Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, sought to reassure the Western European Union today that Britain's defence spending would continue to grow at 3 per cent annually in line with Nato's guidelines. At the same time he stoutly defended the decision to replace Polaris with Trident missiles.

He said, however, that increased spending was not enough to contain the "technological inflation" caused by the sheer complexity of modern defence systems. This was a cost which was accelerating because of the need to keep up with military developments in the Soviet Union.

"We in Western Europe have to live with the Soviet Union on peaceful terms," he said. "We can only do so if we ourselves retain and display the determination to be strong."

"The Soviet Union is constantly tempted to use the military power in which it excels to counterbalance economic and political weaknesses. We saw the Soviet Union yield to that temptation in Afghanistan and we see the temptation facing them again in Poland," he added.

This was why it was essential to have nuclear weapons with a high chance of reaching their targets. The Trident would assure the British contribution to the overall Western deterrence for another generation.

If the West showed it was being softened by the various disarmament campaigns, he added, then the Soviet Union would be less likely to feel the need to reach serious, balanced agreements with the West.

The West needed "credible deterrence and this means nuclear deterrence," he said in conclusion.

Japanese resist defence pressure from Americans

From Peter Hazelhurst, Tokyo, June 15

Japanese officials today accused the United States of attempting to force Japan to increase the size and the fighting capability of its armed forces "far beyond the target envisaged by our people and the Government."

At the same time, an American diplomat in Tokyo said that the United States expected Japan to spend more on defence and take a greater responsibility for its own security. "The time has come when the Japanese can no longer expect a free ride on the issue of defence. They will have to pay more for their own security," he said.

Earlier today Mr Toru Hara, deputy minister in charge of the Defence Agency, is reported to have told senior members of the Cabinet that United States officials who attended a meeting of the Japan-United States security committee in Honolulu last week were highly dissatisfied with Tokyo's reluctance to build up its military machine.

Other officials claimed the United States had presented Japan with a list of equipment and anti-submarine aircraft the country would have to acquire in the next few years if the Self-Defence Force, a euphemism for the Army, Navy and Air Force, were to play a real

part in maintaining the security of the area.

Mr Hara is reported to have reminded American negotiators in Hawaii that the constitution, drawn up during the United States occupation 35 years ago, restricts the size of Japan's armed forces to 270,000 men. The strength of the Army is limited to 180,000 troops who are prohibited from operating abroad.

Japan spends the equivalent to 0.9 per cent of its gross national product on defence. In contrast, members of Nato are contributing as much as 6 per cent towards defence.

The Japanese Government says it will increase its defence budget by about 7.5 per cent annually over the next four years and spend about 1 per cent of gross national product on defence by the end of 1984.

American officials who attended the Honolulu meeting believe this is a cosmetic gesture which will do little to enhance the fighting power of the world's second largest economic power.

In recent weeks, Japanese political groups and newspapers have conducted a campaign to prevent American naval vessels and aircraft from carrying nuclear weapons into their bases in Japan.

Portuguese leader wins party struggle

From Richard Wigg, Lisbon, June 15

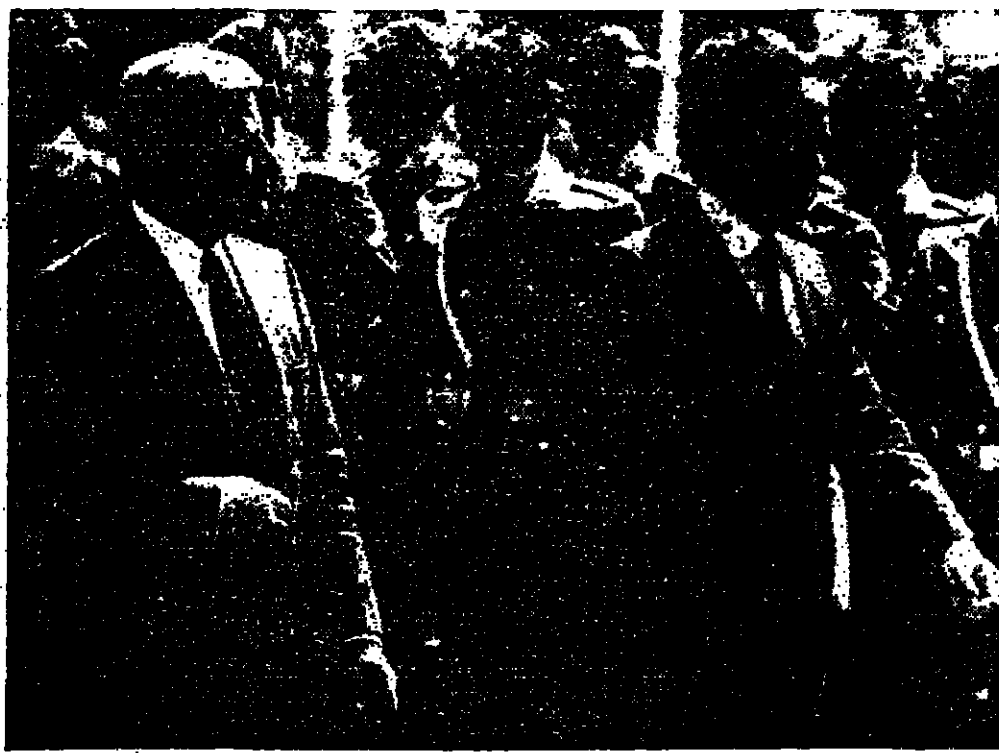
Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão, the Portuguese Prime Minister, began a two-day visit in Bonn today, after having decisively defeated the first serious challenge to his leadership.

In the peculiar situation created by the death in an air crash of Francisco Sá Carneiro, his charismatic predecessor, the challenge did not come from the opposition Socialist Party, or the other party in the ruling coalition but from within the Prime Minister's own Social Democratic Party.

Several prominent members of the influential right wing of the party, headed by Senhor António Cavaco Silva, who was Sá Carneiro's Finance and Planning Minister, are dissatisfied with the change of style of governing of Senhor Pinto Balsemão and believe that they could administer the Sá Carneiro "inheritance" more faithfully than the present Prime Minister.

Senhor Pinto Balsemão defeated his critics by calling a special meeting of the party's national council over the weekend, and calling a special meeting of the party's national council, which voted overwhelmingly for his continued leadership and gave him a mandate to negotiate with the Centre Democratic coalition partners, led by Professor Diogo Freitas do Amaral, the future electoral strategy of the alliance.

The Prime Minister has gained time, but probably only until the autumn, to develop a



Herr Schmidt (left) with Senhor Pinto Balsemão in Bonn yesterday.

more decisive style of leadership. Senhor Cavaco Silva did not bother to wait the outcome of the voting, and the fiery hardliner Senhora Helena Rosa, one of the Prime Minister's long-standing opponents, resigned from the party's policy committee after coming under criticism.

Senhor Pinto Balsemão took on what he labelled the "organised opposition" within the party, telling the gathering they must choose between him and the alternative his critics represented.

The critics of Senhor Pinto Balsemão have two things in common: a nostalgia for the confrontational policies of Dr Sá Carneiro, particularly with President Ramalho Eanes, and a yearning for the right-wing course he skillfully steered

under the cover of the party's Social Democratic label.

The Pinto Balsemão Government has had a difficult six months in office, with problems like a severe drought and strikes in the public sector. But a recent opinion poll has shown the Prime Minister's popularity holding up surprisingly well.

Heading a coalition, in which the minor partners, the Centre Democrats, better organized and pursue purposefully their aim to take Portugal's politics to the right, was a difficult task for Senhor Pinto Balsemão. These difficulties were increased by the fact that several prominent members of his own party never quite accepted him.

Things came to a head as these faction leaders, using the influential Lisbon district party as a sounding board, publicly

criticized the Government last week as "weak and colourless" and demanded immediate steps to resolve the leadership crisis in the party and Government.

Senhor Pinto Balsemão said in Bonn on his arrival (Patricia Clough writes): "We do not wish simply to be a transit country," he said. The Portuguese armed forces needed re-equipping and the Government had turned to its Nato allies for help, he told journalists here.

Senhor Pinto Balsemão was speaking after talks with Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, during which he pressed for more West German investment in Portugal.

British demands could lead to new lamb war

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels, June 15

The EEC faces a fresh outbreak of the lamb war between Britain and France which was supposedly settled last October by the introduction of a new sheepmeat regime and the lifting of the French ban on imports of British lamb.

Hailed at the time by Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, as a victory for British lamb producers and consumers, the sheepmeat regime has in fact reduced British exports to a much lower level than before the French ban was lifted.

Under the regime, British sheepfarmers are paid a subsidy from EEC funds to bring the low market price they receive for their animals up to a guaranteed minimum price.

This subsidy has to be reimbursed, however, in the form of an export tax if British lamb is shipped to the Continent where market prices are artificially maintained at the guaranteed level by the traditional EEC system of intervention buying.

British exporters complain that the tax is too high.

At a meeting here today with Mr Gaston Thorn, the President of the European Commission, Mr Walker pressed Britain's case for a lowering of the tax. He claimed that a reduction had been clearly recognized as justified at the time of the spring price-fixing.

Mr Walker also gave a warning that Britain would not be able to approve a new EEC sugar regime, which is due to come into force on July 1, if the lamb problem was not resolved to his satisfaction.

Although upset by the British attitude, Mr Thorn, who was standing in for the ailing Mr Poul Dalsager, the EEC Commissioner for Agriculture, promised to come forward with a new proposal as soon as possible to meet Britain's problem.

However, Mme Edith Cresson, the French Agriculture Minister, who like Mr Walker, was attending a meeting here of the EEC's Council of Ministers, said any such proposal would have to be approved by the council, where France has the power of veto.

King Khalid visits Spain

From Our Correspondent, Madrid, June 15

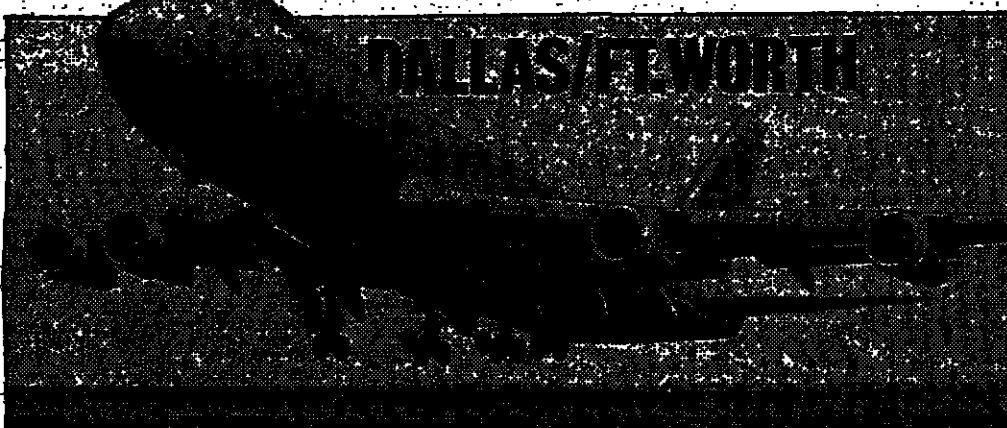
King Khalid of Saudi Arabia arrived here today on a three-day official visit, which Spanish officials hope will lead to more Saudi oil for Spain and more Spanish exports.

The King's programme includes a call on King Juan Carlos at the Zarzuela Palace on the outskirts of Madrid, a formal state dinner at the Oriente Palace here; a dinner with Señor Leopoldo Calvo

Sotelo, the Prime Minister tomorrow; and a visit to the Hunter's Museum at Riofrio, in the Guadarrama mountains, on Wednesday.

Saudi Arabia is Spain's main supplier of oil, furnishing 22 per cent of the country's needs. Last year, Spain imported £1,270m worth of Saudi products, primarily oil, and exported £1,84m worth of goods to Saudi Arabia.

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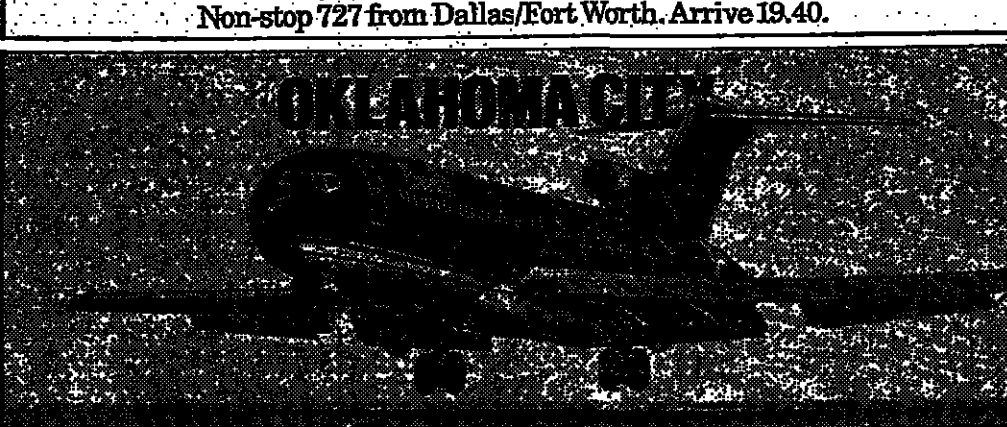
Non-stop 727 from Dallas/Fort Worth. Arrive 17.50.



Non-stop 727 from Dallas/Fort Worth. Arrive 19.40.



Non-stop 727 from Dallas/Fort Worth. Arrive 18.00 except Sat.



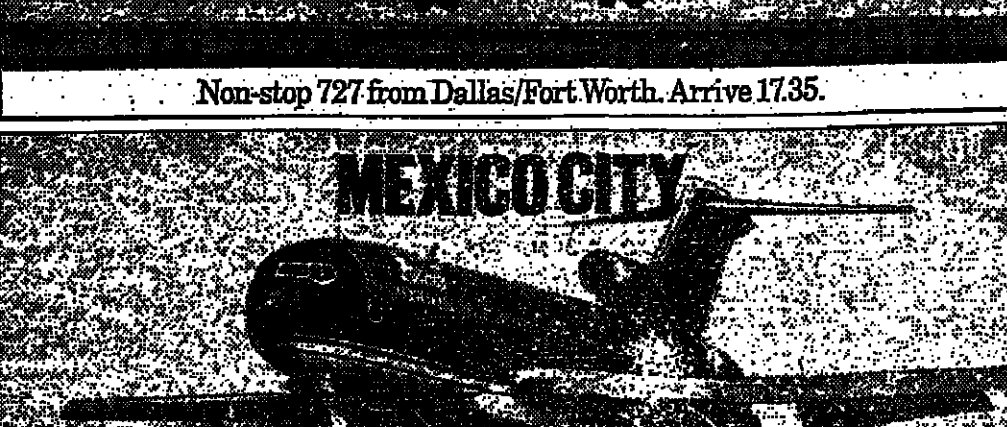
Non-stop 727 from Dallas/Fort Worth. Arrive 18.30 except Sat.



Non-stop 727 from Dallas/Fort Worth. Arrive 19.10.



Non-stop 727 from Dallas/Fort Worth. Arrive 17.35.



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Stop exposing young immigrants to the X-ray myth

Anyone who knows anything about children and hospitals will know that as a conjuncture they can be disastrous: fear runs up against cold routine and the harassed parent is caught in the middle. This truth I am about to demonstrate.

Before I do, let me explain that I am not about to embark upon a lengthy personal anecdote for the pleasure of giving you a glimpse of one mother's anxiety. On the contrary, my intention is to share with you a sense of outrage at something which is profoundly more important than the personal, but something which a sense of personal identification makes all the more vivid — and all the more loathsome.

A week or so ago I had to take my son, a seven-and-a-half-year-old (those halves do matter at this age) to the local child welfare clinic, to be weighed and measured, because he is small for his age. The paediatrician was friendly, the students were interested, yet (despite that) anxiety stalked as stealthily as a night nurse. We were told that an X-ray would be necessary to determine "bone age".

I hasten to add that there was no suggestion that somehow I had been wrong for seven-and-a-half years — any mother would laugh such a suggestion out of the consulting room, should any doctor be presumptuous enough to suggest that she did not know the age of her own child. No, the X-ray is taken to find out how mature the skeleton is, to discover if there is bone retardation, and to predict the likely adult height of the child.

My son complained that he did not want an X-ray, that he did not know what an X-ray was, and that whatever it was it was a bad idea designed to make him suffer. We walked down long corridors, and from being worried, he moved through stages of rebellion, depression, resignation, to actual terror. There were copious tears. Waiting, watching through old magazines, flicking the light switch on and off, red for danger when an X-ray is being taken, hearing the names called, then at last it was our turn.

The room was large and gleaming. The doctor, a man with his left hand and wrist (note that) spread out on the table, and pulled the cumbersome machinery across. His eyes were steady on the screen behind the screen — do not forget that X-rays are dangerous — while he flinched at the quick clashing noise. Then it was over. Since the whole visit had taken over one and a half hours, a toy and an ice cream could barely console him, and it took a much more substantial refreshment to restore my own strength.

For the moment, that is that. The results confirm what I already know: that my son is seven, has the stature of a five year old,

but is at least growing within the range of normality — a pretty wide span. But such an X-ray test, carried out by someone who did not know the child's chronological age, or who did not believe that age, would lead to the conclusion that this particular child is two years younger than stated. Of course, here such a mistake is impossible to imagine, here we do not do things like that.

But if I were a mother in Pakistan, I might have to endure a similar ordeal with an identical weeping seven year old, with my family's future in the balance, and with a British immigration official quite likely to turn round and call me a liar. That is what is being done in your name, my name, the name of my son. Bone X-rays are still a part of procedure in British posts in Asia (though Lord Larrington told the House in March that they have not been used recently in India) and are used, like the notorious virginity test, to check the identity of potential immigrants to this country.

Two years ago, under pressure from the British Medical Association, the government set up the Yellowfloods inquiry to look into these dubious practices, and this bland document shoves the issue of X-rays into an appendix. It says the use of X-rays of the bony skeleton provides a useful, fairly accurate and acceptably safe way of estimating the age of children when it is important to do so.

That statement is as I have shown, shameful nonsense. If there can be such a gap between chronological age and bone age in a healthy child like mine, brought up in the prosperous West, how much greater might the gap be in a child brought up in Dacca, who is more likely to be undernourished, and whose growth may be affected by genetic factors that we know nothing about? Yet we — represented by immigration officials on the ground and the Yellowfloods report in the corridors of power — choose to put children through the drawn-out and often frightening process I described earlier, because we call it "fairly accurate".

And what of this little phrase "acceptably safe"? Do not forget that when my son's hand was X-rayed I was earnestly requested to pop behind a screen to protect myself from unnecessary exposure to radiation. X-rays may be routine in British hospitals, but no doctor exposes a patient (especially a child) to X-rays unless he has a jolly good reason for doing so. A new report, commissioned by Lord Avebury takes Yellowfloods apart without much difficulty, pointing out the dangers of radiation, especially in children. It comments on the fact that immigration X-rays are not restricted to the left hand — as for reasons of safety, here.



Bel Mooney: speaking up for harassed parents.

The World Health Organisation has roundly condemned the use of X-rays used "for administrative purposes".

Now there may be those who believe it is in the long-term interests of our great nation to make the strictest possible examination of all applications to come here, and that those interests justify the use of X-ray tests. But surely such an argument depends for its strength on the reliability of the tests — and no less a body than the Institute of Child Health has pointed out that X-rays are unsafe and wildly inaccurate.

Medically valid they are not, and nor are they morally valid. The BMA — not noted for its radicalism — passed a motion in 1979 which stated that X-ray tests "carried out solely for administrative and political purposes are unethical". The eminent doctors called upon the Government to ban such practices. And are they satisfied with the Yellowfloods report? So unsatisfied is the BMA that it wrote to Sir Henry Yellowfloods in April requesting a meeting. No reply. Two phone calls have got the eminent doctors nowhere.

My phone calls to the press offices of the Home Office and the Department of Health and

Social Security led to the inescapable conclusion that muddled men are vaguely conscious of the issue, but that nothing is being done.

Is it because this is all going on, not in my local child welfare clinic, but far away? It is very hard indeed to imagine such a discredited practice happening, for instance, in Australia. In the unlikely event of Aussies clamouring to come here, for even if the colonials put up with it, the outcry here would blow the roof off the Home Office. No — we are putting children through an ordeal of fear and exposing them to quite unnecessary danger in carrying out a test which in any case does not show accurately what it is supposed to show — and we are doing all this with impunity because those children are Asian.

This abuse of medical practice and human rights still goes on because those children have brown skins, and are unfortunately enough to have parents who want to join relatives here. As a nation we should ask ourselves what justification there can ever be for doing to another country's children what we would never do to our own.

Bel Mooney

Does old age have to mean mental decline?

The news that Rita Hayworth is suffering from rapidly progressive senility will have saddened the millions of filmgoers who remember her rare combination of beauty and vitality. She is said to have Alzheimer's disease, thought until recently to be rare. In every 10 Britons over 60 has Alzheimer's disease; the physical and mental deterioration that it causes is relentless and is fatal within five to 10 years.

Medical concepts of mental aging and senility have changed substantially in the past few years. Like other organs such as the heart, lungs, and kidneys, the brain becomes less efficient with age. Old men forget they took a little shower — but as Picasso, de Gaulle, and a galaxy of orchestral conductors from Beethoven to Stokowski have shown, aging is not necessarily a process of remorseless decline.

In some old people, however, the rundown suddenly accelerates. From being physically fit and mentally alert at 60 or even 70, an individual becomes so forgetful that normal conversation becomes impossible, he neglects his hygiene, and soon needs constant supervision to prevent accidents or fires. This transition from normal old age to senile dementia may take only a few months.

"Sad," doctors used to say, "it's hardening of the arteries. The brain isn't getting the oxygen it needs. The blood vessels have furred up like water pipes blocked by scale. Experiments were made to this diagnosis when the dementia affected a man or woman in their 50s or early 60s. In these cases the medical label was presenile dementia, but the varieties with their exotic names taken from nineteenth century European neurologists — Pick's and Jacob-Creutzfeldt's disease as well as Alzheimer's disease — were said to be rare and of little practical importance.

All were thought to be examples of premature aging or degeneration of the brain cells. Ordinary dementia or senile decay as it affected patients aged 70 and over was seen as a natural process, but one that affected individuals unpredictably, like greying of the hair.

That picture has now had to be revised. As microscopic examination of brains removed after death has shown the unmistakable picture of Alzheimer's disease in 80 per cent of individuals dying from dementia, whether aged 55 or 95. Nothing is wrong with the blood supply to these brains; the striking abnormality is the loss of brain cells, while those that remain are tangled and distorted. Whatever its cause, Alzheimer's disease is not just accelerated aging.



The decline of a star: Rita Hayworth in her Hollywood heyday and right, now, in her sixties. Below, still taken in their eighties: Dame Ninette de Valois, Evelyn Laye and Dame Rebecca West.



This change in medical opinion may seem of only academic importance. Doctors had no treatment for their patients when they believed their dementia was due to arteriosclerosis; they have no treatment now that they believe that in most cases the diagnosis should be Alzheimer's disease. Yet there are important, practical implications. As life expectancy increases, many more people are living into their 70s and beyond, and dementia affects one in every five 80-year-olds.

Dementia is, indeed, swamping the medical services for the elderly to the virtual exclusion of everything else. Our crowded geriatric hospitals can accommodate only a fraction of those affected, and millions of demented old people are left in the care of their overburdened families. So long as dementia was seen as natural, and inevitable, health planners could only press for more

resources for the elderly. If, however, Alzheimer's disease should prove to be either treatable or preventable, the outlook for the elderly could be transformed.

What are the prospects? The brains of patients with Alzheimer's disease show not only structural but also biochemical abnormalities, and research workers in neurological institutes around the world are trying to identify which are the important, potentially reversible defects. The current leading hypothesis is that deficiencies in the chemicals that transmit impulses from one nerve cell to another. Already attempts are being made to restore the chemical balance to normal.

Recognition that most patients with senile dementia have Alzheimer's disease explains, too, the failure of previous efforts to reverse

senility. Treatments intended to increase the supply of oxygen to the brain, to flush blood clots from its arteries, or to soak it in vitamins were all based on mistaken theories. Now that the targets for research have been identified, the prospects are brightening. (And no one need fear that a cure for dementia would further distort the age-pattern in our society; even if medicine could eliminate deaths from cancer, stroke, and heart disease as well as dementia most of us could still expect our bodies to wear out around the age of 85.)

Meanwhile too many families have to struggle with the daily problems of coping with a demented relative. On any cost-effective analysis, money spent on research into dementia must be a sound investment.

Dr Tony Smith
Medical Correspondent

Fashion by Suzy Menkes

Stretching your wardrobe

Do your clothes work as hard as you do? While we are scurrying from home to office to supermarket to school, taking up yoga, taking down the minutes or taking on the Board, our clothes have a more leisureed life.

The little silk suit rests quietly on its hanger waiting for an evening out. The summer T-shirt is a prisoner in its drawer, seeing daylight only on a sweltering day in the garden. The espadrilles have been waiting for a dry spell to take their first steps.

We now have 12 weeks in which summer clothes can justify their purchase. Unless you are profligate, you will want anything you buy now to be of maximum possible use, which means crisp, functional clothes that will stand up to everyday wear and be suitable for travelling and sightseeing.

It is a surprisingly tall order, for this summer's clothes have become compartmentalized: silk outfits for Ascot, safari shorts for sportswear, frilly romantic blouses for evening, tropical prints for holidays.

Bridging the gap are the stylish separates which should be the basics of any woman's wardrobe. They are the canvas which you colour with simple wooden beads and plain shoes for work or with shell necklaces and bold bangles for less formal wear.

The most important decision is to pick a plain background enlivened with stripes or a small splash of print.

The two leading looks are the perennially popular Deauville: crisp cotton skirts with white and navy predominating — and the safari styles. Sandy beige jackets, safari shorts and separates all look best with a tan, but you can spice them with red to give warmth.

Since this summer's basics should survive until next year, the skin skirts that never go out of fashion are the wisest buys. If you are still wearing last summer's outfits and looking for ways to bring them up to date, the big changes have been at the neck and the knees.

The round-necked T-shirt has now been superseded by the polo shirt, especially the collared and cuffed version by the American firm of Lacoste. Jackets, by contrast, look newest without a collar or with very narrow revers. (But your old navy blazer will do very well — they are universally shorter except for the revived peasant skirt). Straight and culotte skirts must be shortened to at least on the knee and worn with flat shoes or sandals.

This summer's accessories are anything in wood, bronze or white.



Anyone for Deauville? Left: short sleeved seersucker suit with canvas (not shown) in blue or beige and white stripes £28.99 from main branches of Richard Shops. Tennis shirt by Lacoste £13.95 in white, red, navy or beige, with white and gold belt. £4.95, both from Fenwick of Bond Street. Soft bag by Christopher Tull from his shop at 17 Catherine Street and Harvey Nichols. Embroidered flaties £26.99 in blue, white or khaki from Russell & Bromley, main branches.

Right: Navy and white striped polo shirt by Laurel £17.50, crisp white culotte skirt with selection at John Lewis. Sandals £39.50 in red and gold or black and gold from Russell & Bromley, 24 New Bond Street and London branches. Shell necklace by Adrian Mann. Right: Button-through safari dress with webbing belt by Anne Tyrrell for John Marks. £59.95 in khaki or beige, from Irvine Sellers of Oxford Street and Leeds, Peter Robinson, Benny Ong No 2 Collection, from Simpson's of Jermyn Street and Diagonal of Guildford, Tan

leather belt £8.50 by Otto Glantz from a selection at John Lewis. Sandals £39.50 in red and gold or black and gold from Russell & Bromley, 24 New Bond Street and London branches. Shell necklace by Adrian Mann. Right: Button-through safari dress with webbing belt by Anne Tyrrell for John Marks. £59.95 in khaki or beige, from Irvine Sellers of Oxford Street and Leeds, Peter Robinson, Benny Ong No 2 Collection, from Simpson's of Jermyn Street and Diagonal of Guildford, Tan

Adrian Cartmel from Crocodile branches in London and Altrincham, Bournemouth, Brighton, Chichester, Guildford, Solihull, Tunbridge Wells, Windsor and Royal Exchange Shopping Centre, Manchester. Sandals leather city sandals £39.99 from Russell & Bromley, 24 New Bond Street and main branches. Wooden beads and bangles by Adrian Mann.

Hair by Gary from Toni and Guy

Photograph by Tony Boase

Snippets

■ Not a jogging bra, but a bra for jogging, explained the astounded constables when I asked about undies for sportswear. I saw her point.

Any woman who takes up active sports should think about what goes underneath her slinky tennis dress or cycling track suit. Pretty undies have their place, but comfort and practicality must be the first priorities.

Those inspired by the onset of Wimbledon to bring a racket might like to control their curves with Bertie's Sports Bra in nylon and cotton lock-knit, with airy elastic mesh under the cups. Comes in white and natural, in 32 to 38 inch bust, various cup sizes, from major department stores.

The energetic teenager will like Triumph's Aerex bra with adjustable straps (£4.99), one of their three Tri action bras designed specifically for sportswear. All in polyester cotton and elastane, in white and natural, they include a bra for large busts (up to size 42) and a front-fastening bra with racing-style back (also recommended for mastectomy patients). They are £2.50 and £5.50 respectively from major stores including Harrods and Selfridges.

Rose Lewis of Knightsbridge recommends a cotton bra in a good shape "so that you don't feel that you're not wearing one". She suggests a full-cup under a light cotton tennis dress and a sports bra with no seams, but good support under cycling shirts. Rose Lewis has bras from 32 to 42 inch bust, from 40 Knightsbridge, London, SW1.

If cotton is really the winning fabric for sportswear, you wouldn't think so from combing the sports departments, which seem to have a great deal of nylon for trackuits and socks. Harrods Olympic Way have Fred Perry's 100 per cent cotton sports socks at £1.65 and cotton sports pants by Lacoste at £4.95. They also have Warner's Sports bras at £7.

■ It was one of those parties where I had to go to wear. But then the only thing you can wear to have cocktails with Harry Winston is a diamond as big as a Ritz biscuit.

There were plenty of those on show alongside the canapés when Harry Winston of New York (now run by son Ronald) rode into town and set up their wares — stunning stones in princely settings — at Les Ambassadeurs.

Since jewels look almost as good against the neck as on ink blue velvet, one's eyes were drawn towards the guests whose show of spandrels outshone the chandeliers.

Personally I fancied the sapphires (more discreet than emeralds or rubies, if you believe the press release.) You can feast your eyes and have your money all this week.

■ To the strains of Fred Astaire, the models pranced out to prove you can wear Gloria Vanderbilt's jeans anywhere. Even to a weight-watchers' meeting.

I hope I never have to walk up the avenue belted in a couple of extra smalls wearing jeans. The two biggest (sic) stars at Gloria Vanderbilt's show last week made even the well-endowed Diana Dors (in the audience in powder-blue trouser-suit) look positively svelte.

If you are well over size 16 and really want to be seen in jeans, you can now get them (up to 40in waist) from branches of Debenhams and Evans Outside.

The Royal Wedding Thimble

The thimble will surely appear on July 26th when H.R.H. Prince of Wales weds Lady Diana "Spreet" in St Paul's, as what will undoubtedly be a truly memorable, historic and unique occasion. The item in the Times will surely be the future Queen and we will have a rare and historic moment as the Royal couple, the Prince and the Princess, are joined in marriage.

The design in royal blue leaves the couple's names and wedding date in scrolls, beneath the Crown and the Prince of Wales's motto, and the thimble is encircled with a band of pure gold.

Autumnally housed in a comes complete with a Certificate of Authenticity, and represents an excellent value at only £4.95 (on basis of 1.17 p.p.p. and postage or £4.95 for £4.95 a limited number of items of the same design are left in the same price. Demand is certain to be high and production is limited, collectors are therefore, advised to order early. Credit Cards are welcome and buyers may telephone their order to us at 01-494-1655; 24/7, 24 hours, or by letter, quoting Card Number 10.

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A CABINET MARKING TIME BUT NOT IN STEP

The cabinet meeting tomorrow provides a rare opportunity for the Government to appraise the economic strategy. Nobody will stand on the steps of Downing Street announcing decisions, but the meeting has real choices and it has considerable symbolic importance. The investment is that, two years into its term, the Government is waiting for something to turn up. All the main indicators of the economy are stuck, with the exception of unemployment which is on a trend to reach 3 million by the end of next year. In the spring we were led to believe that growth was round the corner. In the summer, the duty of telling the nation the recession is not over has been assumed by the Leader of the House, Mr Francis Pym, who is presumably cast as Cassandra simply because he is the only senior Minister who has not been saying the opposite in the previous months.

An end to the drop in output by the end of this summer, which is possible, would not bode well for the Government. The modest restocking but the best forecast is for output to stay flat. Certainly predictions for sustained recovery are premature and the immobilism is accompanied by something which strikes to the heart of everything the Government has set out to achieve. The fall in inflation, which has been its single economic achievement, is coming to an end. There is no prospect of single figure inflation by the end of this year. Worse, there is no real likelihood of that next year either. Indeed, inflation may rise again next year before falling back to about 10 per cent.

This would be a political disaster for the Government, carrying with it a threat of further wage inflation. The falling inflation has helped to drive down the level of settlements inherited from Labour but a recurrence bodes ill for an average settlement of around 5 per cent or less which we need if there is to be any improvement in Britain's competitive position. The Government's chosen main weapon for restoring growth, a cut in minimum lending rates from 14 to 12 per cent, is in jeopardy also and in its place a fear that interest rates may have to move up, not down, in the months ahead. It is not all gloom. There are too many stories of companies which have used the recession to cut out decades of inefficiency and over-manning for them all to be false. The money supply seems to be growing roughly in line with the Government's target if the distorting effects of the Civil Service strike are ruled out. And the firm stand against the Civil Service unions has been exemplary.

Delicate choices

But putting together every scrap of optimism does suggest that the Government risks going into the next election with things not actually getting worse rather than getting positively better. The fissionable Labour Party is unattractive and the Social Democrats are unproven, but it would be a dangerous Government which would hope to win an election by announcing it had succeeded in doubling unemployment, reducing national output, and keeping inflation near 10 per cent, a little above the level in the last months of the Labour Government.

The Government is therefore faced with delicate political and economic choices. If it continues along its present course, it is not doomed to electoral defeat, but it will not be able to win the election on its own merits. Mrs Thatcher must surely calculate on the basis of an election in the autumn of 1983. If things are going badly then she can delay until the spring of 1984 but Mr Callaghan's example should be a warning to her of how dangerous it is to risk a final disruptive winter. To stand a reasonable chance in October 1983, the Government must be able to point to evidence of economic improvement by the autumn of 1982. This means either that Ministers at tomorrow's meeting must be confident that present policies will by then be seen to be successful or that the necessary corrective measures

will be taken by this autumn at the latest.

The Government has so far set itself a single economic target, the reduction of inflation, with the single weapon of monetary control. It has not had a policy for Sterling, it has not had a policy for investment and its policy for wages has amounted to leaving it to unemployment and the fall of inflation. It is doubtful if inflation can be defeated by determination and monetarism; it is certain that a national recovery cannot be achieved that way.

The most likely course is for the Government to declare that it is redoubling its efforts to conquer inflation but if this should be the outcome tomorrow, Ministers will have to recognize what it entails. It will only become a usable card in the next election if the Government can show that inflation is significantly lower than when Labour left office. That has to mean getting it down to around 5-7 per cent. It is an admirable target but achieving it will need some steel and a lot of luck. The spending cuts that have eluded the Government for so long will have to be made and they will be painful. The election pledges which hedged in the Chancellor before his Budget this year will have to be broken. That could mean cuts in pensions, or cuts in the health service or defence, two areas which have so far escaped. It will mean a much tougher attitude towards jobs in the Civil Service. The lesson of the past two years is that these cuts are extremely hard to achieve with the best will in the world. In a Cabinet where most of the spending ministers are out of sympathy with the whole philosophy of cutting spending, they are almost impossible. Even within the Treasury there is a resigned acceptance that at the end of the summer a bitter argument about spending cuts will develop and we will be lucky to emerge without further spending increases.

Inflation the first enemy

Ministers will have to reconcile themselves, further, to the fact that if they choose to attack inflation as their prime target, they will have to abandon their hopes of big tax cuts. When they came to power, the Conservatives hoped to achieve a big reduction in the burden of taxation. They talked of a 25 per cent standard rate. It is doubtful now if the Government can even return the level of direct taxation to what it was after its first Budget.

There is, in short, a price to be paid for an anti-inflation policy which consists of high interest rates, high exchange rates and tight fiscal control. The political price is obvious and the economic price is that a renewed attack on inflation, especially if accompanied with higher interest rates, arrives with it at least a short-term worsening of the recession.

There are two further steps which would fit well with a recommitment to the strategy of making inflation the first enemy. All Ministers should be asked to throw their weight behind a campaign for realism in pay; people in work have had an unjustified rise in their living standards at the high cost to the unemployed and those on a fixed income. Secondly, the Cabinet can overrule Mr Prior's Fabianism and insist on attacking trade union restrictive practices which add to costs and limit opportunity.

There would be some turmoil in attempting all this. There would be a year, perhaps, in which living standards would fall. There would be a need for tough nerves and a united Cabinet before the benefits could start to be felt. But a demonstration that this was to be the policy would give credibility and coherence back to an increasingly tattered strategy.

What is the alternative if Ministers think that the price of this policy is too high? A general reflation of the kind the Labour Party advocates is political and economic suicide. Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe in particular have set such store by the determination to avoid U-turns that they would be subject to ridicule if they were seen to change their policy too abruptly. If the new policies were successful that would be seen not so much as a justification of ministerial wisdom in

switching course as a condemnation of ministerial pique during their first two and half years in office. There is only a limited amount, therefore, that the Government can do without inviting ridicule and stoking up inflation to a dangerous degree. Any honest alternative from the "wets" has to start out from the fact that it must concentrate on ways of boosting the economy without pushing up the underlying inflation rate too much.

The measures they can advocate are those which increase demand and yet curb inflation. We need to cut company costs in employing labour and increase the incentive to invest in the capital equipment which is needed to modernize our industry. There is a ready means available for cutting labour costs. The surcharge on National Insurance contributions is a fit subject for criticism. A phased reduction of the National Insurance charge would reduce inflation and raise output.

The second main area where an alternative policy could increase output without necessarily increasing inflation is by the stimulation of investment. Investment in the private sector is inhibited by the lack of demand, the high rate of return required and the fact that many companies find it impossible to offset the cost against tax on their profits because they have not been making any profits. There is a question mark also against our financial system which makes borrowing for consumption and inflation relatively easy by comparison with borrowing for investment. Changes in that area will take a decade, on recent experience, but on taxation the Government could look again at the scheme proposed by the Confederation of British Industry which would give interest relief to companies not making enough to pay tax on profits. It goes without saying that the "wets" should also resist any further raising of interest rates. In the public sector, a purchaser is hard to be pressed for further capital investment in the soundest schemes. The candidates are well known, ranging from the Channel tunnel to the modernization of our phone. Railway electrification is another excellent candidate provided it is accompanied by firm and monitored labour productivity. In addition, the alternative policy would be to have the Government use its power as a purchaser to speed up the development of new industry. There should be a more aggressive approach to modernizing the way in which the Civil Service works. It would improve its efficiency and help build up Britain's presence in growing areas such as word processing.

The price of expansion

Taken together, these boosts to investment and cuts in the insurance surcharge would push up the level of public borrowing, probably lead to faster growth in the money supply and would tend to bring down the value of the pound if left to float. The increase in PSBR by the money better spent than in paying interest charges to the banks and dole money to skilled people. But there would be, and there would have to be, an extra inflationary tendency. It is the price that any expansionary strategy will probably have to pay in the early stages, short of an incomes freeze and a fixed rate for the pound.

This alternative policy does not stretch political credibility. Ministers would be able to argue plausibly that what they are intending to do is a natural extension of previous policies to take account of changing circumstances — and after all, it is this Government which has bailed out the country on a scale nobody would have predicted.

What the country has a right to expect is that ministers will decide soon which of the two roads discussed above they intend to follow and, having decided, to take the country into its confidence. Inactive against U-turns is not an adequate substitute for leadership and for explanation. As it assembles tomorrow the Cabinet gives the impression of marking time and of not even doing that in step.

Rail and road

From Mr C. A. Middlemitch

Sir, Whenever the railways are in trouble (when are they not in trouble?), ferrophilous arguments alleging aid dubious arguments in favour of institutionalized road transport. Your recent leader road transport. ("Railways in trouble", May 29) ("Railways in trouble", May 29) seems to have succumbed to popular superstition about imaginary Treasury shrouds and ghouls that gobble up defenceless rail lines while smiling benignly on our motorways.

Instead of these fancies, some facts might allay the British Rail fever. In 1971-1980, British Rail received £500m in grants in today's money. In addition they have had £180m in debt written off, and BR pension funds have been topped up by £300m of taxpayers' money. In 1980 alone, the taxpayer paid £634m in rail subsidies, and still BR lost £77m. This year BR has a financing

limit of £920m and is asking for more.

On the road side the figures look rather different, which is just as well for the taxpayer. In the same ten-year period, road users paid over £36,000m in taxes, and road expenditure was under £15,000m, making a profit of £21,000m. In the current year, the taxpayers' profit from roads will amount to over £25,000m. Of this profit, well over £100m will be contributed by road hauliers.

Unlike the railways, who can always turn to the taxpayer if the going gets rough, the road haulier has to pay his taxes out of cash flow: there is no tax at every fill-up or on vehicle licences (£1,400 or more to put a heavy lorry on the road). It is precisely these sorts of cost pressures that put an estimated 3,000 hauliers out of business last year, with the loss of 20,000 jobs

(whereas, as you rightly state, virtually no rail jobs were lost).

The fact of the matter is that road haulage is one of the most efficient industries in the country and railways among the least efficient. No-one begrudges BR the investment needed to modernize and re-equip, but the road haulier heartily resents having to pay increased taxes year by year while listening to sanctimonious nonsense about the "social" railway (part paid for by road taxes) and the "anti-social" haulage industry. Let the rail industry put its own house in order, before passing stones at passing lorries. If the rail unions were to heed your wise advice on productivity they would do themselves and the country a greater service.

Yours faithfully,
CARL A. MIDDLEMITCH,
P.O. Box 10,
The Stockyard,
Banbury, Oxfordshire.

Allegiances of a Councillor

From Councillor C. P. Lewcock

Sir, It seems you have left a very important figure out of your picture (leading article, June 13) of the master-servant relationship in local government. That is the elector.

I am a local government officer and now as well a County Councillor. But I was not elected by NALGO. I was elected by the people in the community where I live. They were made aware in my election literature of my profession and they chose to elect me because, presumably, they felt that I would serve their interests better than my opponents. I intend to serve them to the best of my ability.

Your suggestion to disable any local government officer from standing for election in any local authority were adopted I should be denied the opportunity to serve and local people would be denied their choice.

The answer to the problem you pose is to strengthen the ties of accountability between the elector and the member so that if he or she is not doing his job properly, the elector can effectively deal with it in the ballot box. The introduction of proportional representation, by weakening the grip of party discipline, would assist in this.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS LEWCOCK,
Members' Suite,
County Hall,
Maidstone,
Kent,
June 13.

The Osirak raid

From Mr Nasim Ahmed

Sir, In your editorial on the Israeli bombing raid on Iraqi nuclear installations at Daura (June 10) you have rightly warned that the precedent has been set. If we accept Mr Menachem Begin's thesis that Israel was justified in staging a "pre-emptive strike" on a possible nuclear reactor, then the Arab or Islamic country is safe from unprovoked attacks of this kind. Furthermore, the dangerous "Begin doctrine" of "pre-emptive strikes" limited now to the Arab world, is a precedent which should be hard to cooperate openly with the United States in the face of the "Begin doctrine", the latest and most horrible demonstration of which was the attack on Iraq after a hard installation. The Israeli attack on Iraq, which has signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty and placed its nuclear installations under the inspection "control" of the UN International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, will only confirm the contention that it is not the Soviet Union, but aggressive Israeli militarism, which today poses the most serious threat to the Arab and Islamic states.

Yours faithfully,
NASIM AHMED
(Former Ambassador of Pakistan),
46 Kent Avenue,
Belling, W13,
June 11.

Seat-belt legislation

From Dr John Adams

Sir, Dr Mackay asserts (June 11) that my analysis of the efficacy of seat belt legislation is seriously flawed. It is curious given the parliamentarian interest in the question, the time he has had to study my analysis, and the number of times he has repeated the charge, that he has not substantiated the charge in print. In debates about seat belt legislation, complexity mere assertion is not enough.

Dr Mackay is impressed by the evidence from Australia. In the appendix to my paper I argue, with reasons and evidence, that the Australian evidence is seriously flawed. So far my reasons and evidence have not been answered.

Contrary to Dr Mackay's assertion, my analysis looks at car occupant deaths separately from other deaths in the countries for which the data are available. The results do not help his case. My analysis also takes account of changes in petrol consumption. Again the results do not help his case.

Between 1972 (the year before the energy crisis) and 1978, the period within which most laws were passed, road deaths decreased by 17 per cent. In the same period, petrol consumption fell by 17 per cent in countries without seat belt laws, nor even said what they are.

Most of the "great number of specific studies" to which Dr Mackay refers deal with the "statistical efficacy of seat belts for car occupants involved in accidents." But none of them has explained why, in countries which have passed laws and in which there have been subsequent large increases in wearing rates, there has been no significant effect on the numbers killed.

Both Houses of Parliament have displayed on numerous occasions in the past great difficulty in formulating policies whose wisdom depends on a correct assessment of complex technical issues. Last Thursday's seat belt debate in the Lords followed intensive lobbying on both sides. In the debate, the view that you can prove anything with statistics had many adherents. They seemed to find it a liberating insight; it freed them from the obligation to consider any statistical evidence that was incompatible with their pre-established voting intentions.

The letters page of *The Times* cannot offer sufficient space to air the statistical debate fully. But it is an appropriate forum in which to discuss the manner in which the debate ought to be conducted.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN ADAMS,
Department of Geography,
University College London,
26 Bedford Way, WC1.

Practical skills and examinations

From Mr William H. Stubbs

Sir, There has indeed been a shift between the values given to the academic and practical skills of young people. (*The Times*, June 12) This is only too evident to those whose responsibility it is to advise school leavers on job opportunities. Society in general and employers in particular place great weight on the academic achievements of school leavers, often at the expense of other personal skills and qualities. Where these are scarce it must seem unfair to young people only to be asked to show evidence of success in examinations (in the case of GCE O levels this is based on performance in a two or three-hour test) without their being able to present other testimony of their abilities to apply themselves diligently, reliably, punctually and honestly to work.

There are two developments which could help in restoring the balance:

One: the implementation of a nationally recognized common system of examining at 16-plus. The CSSE, which was a prize-winning scheme, has not achieved widespread acceptance by employers and is due to be replaced. The time being taken to construct a replacement for CSSE and O Levels is however going to be very long. Ten years elapsed between the Schools Council recommendation in 1970 for a common examination

Party credentials

From Mr Robert N. Wareing

Sir, I read with interest, and not a little incredulity, your report of a speech made by Denis Healey to delegates to the General and Municipal Workers' Union conference (June 9) in which he made a personal and ill-informed attack against myself. Perhaps you will allow me to set the record straight.

Mr Healey stated that Eric Ogden, MP for Liverpool West Derby had been "shouldered out by a polytechnic lecturer". A minor point, but I am, in fact, a lecturer at the General Liverpool College of Further Education. More serious is his complaint that an attempt is being made "to replace the natural traditional backbone of the party, the industrial working class of Britain, with white collar intellectuals and professionals 'with clean hands'". I would suggest that by comparison with Mr Healey I possess impeccable working class credentials. I was a miner, later a lorry driver, working at the Liverpool docks in hail, rain, and snow — his tough life leading to a premature death at the age of 61. Mr Healey's father was the Principal of the Liverpool College of Education, the first member of my family ever to have been employed in a non-manual job.

When I studied for my university degree it was at evening classes here in industrial Liverpool after a hard day's work and not in the rarified atmosphere of Balliol College, Oxford. Since then, I have spent much of my life endeavouring to improve the lot of working class students by preparing them for higher education. I always thought that socialists were interested in improvement.

Readers could be forgiven for imagining that I am a member of the "bed-sitter" socialist just having infiltrated from the Socialist Workers' Party or the International

Draining the Broad

From Miss Lucy Neville

Sir, I was pleased to see the coverage *The Times* (June 6) gave to the proposed drainage of nearly 6,000 acres of Broadland near Haverstoke on the Norfolk Broads. I was dismayed, however, to read of the sort of compromise that the Broads Authority is prepared to make.

Only a quarter of the area is saved for the wild life and flora that cannot be considered as a very satisfactory result. I think this particular case exposes many faults in the present notions of "wild conservation" means and how far one should be prepared to go to defend as yet undamaged countryside.

The greatest threat to the countryside is that of possible commercial gain. For this reason alone the farming community cannot be the custodians of the countryside. They are the business developers of the country. They do not necessarily know anything about wild flora and fauna let alone appreciate the benefits to be reaped from maintaining an ecological balance. If only one farmer behaves responsibly it clearly depends on the amount of land at his disposal that will govern the damage he can and will do.

The farmers that do protect and even develop corners of fields to benefit the wildlife cannot compensate for the vast tracts of land that are ploughed up for agriculture, though it does express the desire of some farmers to retain a balance.

Compromise in conservation usually means the farmers gaining at wildlife's expense. If conservationists are appalled by being given a token little parcel of land, which I'm afraid a few acres actually is, they cannot hope to support our landscape. In Haverstoke there are two areas of special scientific interest and if the farmers allow the authorities to have a mere quarter of the area including these sites, protests will shrink away. The rest of the area meanwhile will be drained, herbicides and pesticides

Ethics of fasting

From Canon Eric James

Sir, It could be helpful just now to compare and contrast Gandhi's public fasting with that of the Maze prisoners.

Pyarelal Nayyar, Gandhi's biographer, writing in *The Statesman* of January 3, 1967, on "The right and wrong users of fasting": "How Gandhi's standards apply today," concluded that fasting "cannot be resorted to against those who regard us as their enemy, or on whose love we have not established a claim by dint of selfless service; it cannot be resorted to by a person who has not identified himself with, or worked for the cause he is fasting for; it cannot be used for gaining a material selfish end, or to change the honestly held opinion of another or in support of an issue that is not clear, feasible and demonstrably just."

Eric Erikson, in a chapter of his study of Gandhi significantly called

'The War Game' under wraps

From Miss Gillian Peelle

Sir, Mr Nicholas Horsley's letter (June 13) will, I hope, stimulate further discussion about the BBC's decision not to show "The War Game". As a member of the General Advisory Council, I do not think it necessary to comment further on the substance of what took place at its last meeting. However I should like to make two points about the issues raised by the film itself and by the reluctance of the BBC to allow the general public to see it.

First, it seems to me that any argument for protecting the public from the distress which the film may cause has been vitiated by the fact that a very large number of people know both of the film's existence and of its contents. (Apart from widespread press descriptions, it is freely available on cinema clubs and private hire.) There is now much better propaganda for the anti-nuclear cause in the BBC's refusal to screen "The War Game" on television than there is in the water-tight containment of its contents.

Secondly, it is by no means clear that the film's depiction of what would happen in the event of a nuclear war forces one to any conclusions about how Britain could best avoid such a catastrophe. It could well be argued that the retention of independent deterrent forces and giving further consideration to civil defence would be more effective in this respect than unilateral disarmament which has been our present nostrum of "The War Game".

Additional expenditure on defence and nuclear weapons does, however, need public support. That support cannot be built when the issues of defence strategy are treated as subjects which should not be discussed in public. Parliament, after a decade in which the British Government was not debated at all, has in the last eighteen months broken the political silence in an attempt to assess the moral, economic and strategic questions raised by our nuclear posture.

The BBC's responsibility to contribute to the debate outside Parliament would be discharged more effectively by screening "The War Game" than by continuing to acquiesce in the question of whether rightly or wrongly — government-inspired censorship.

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN PEELE,
Lady Margaret Hall,
Oxford,
June 13.

Benefit strike victims

From Mr James Earthrowl

Sir, Current unrest and industrial action harm many people when social security money cannot be paid promptly, although those who have some savings can manage to get by for a few days.

Not so those who have no resources at all and rely desperately on the social security paying officer. When pressures force the paymaster to delay, the payment (say) early next week for a man whose need is paramount this very day, the enforced wait throws the applicant back upon voluntary services.

For instance, an ex-offender who has found a job and can produce a confirming letter from his employer will not receive his wages until the end of his first or his second week's work. He has to live on his own but the landlord wants rent in advance which normally the Department of Health and Social Security will cover. Without pre-payment he has to go to a central office for an offer of an appointment some days ahead shows lack of understanding of his problem.

To cover the needs of such a man makes serious demands on the resources of any prison or probation society. It is difficult to turn a man away when "through-care" for his rehabilitation has reached this stage. He cannot afford bus fares to the central office for a money. Our own welcome with many a presbytery wears thin when we ask parishes to provide cash today which we may promise to return by the end of the next week. Efforts to reach the hearts of Home Office or DHSS executives result only in reference to the staff who go slow. The National Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nacro) do not have limitless resources.

We ask those who have voices that will be heard in official circles to tell us how to secure that voluntary societies a refund of what is properly handed out to those men whose names are truly at the bottom of the pile.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. EARTHROWL,
Director,
Catholic Social Service for Prisoners,
495-497 King's Road, SW10,
June 10.

Book values

From Mr Alan Bevan

Sir, The recent exchange in your paper between Lord Rothschild and Kenneth Baker on investment in rare books is interesting in that the books' 1981 values are estimates of current market selling prices; that is prices at which they could be currently bought by collectors.

In assessing their performance as investments one should realistically value them in terms of their current realizable prices, that is book sellers' buying prices. This is half the current market prices, as many who have invested in stamps have found to their cost and dismay.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BEVAN,
10 Holders Hill Gardens, NW4.

Forty years on

From Commander C. F. Walker, RN

Sir, When young Miss Phillips is a little older no doubt her grandfather the Duke of Edinburgh will enjoy telling her how he assisted in the sinking of her namesake, the Italian cruiser Zara, at the battle of Matapan, for which he was mentioned in despatches.

Yours faithfully,
C. F. WALKER,
Pantons,
Dallington,
Heathfield,
Sussex,
June 12.

VYER rule in...
The arithmetic of nuclear power, page 16

PRESTON...
Six times too many for CEI

Silver price falls...
Docks deadlock

Nuclear stoppage...
Dumping case dropped

Chemical sales...
Jobs for Wales

More UK coal aid...
Iran inflation curbs

Wall Street higher...
PRICE CHANGES

The arithmetic of nuclear power, page 16

Stock markets
FT Index 547.8 up 12.0
FT 100 67.16 up 1.08

Sterling
\$2.0020 up 430 pts
Index 95.8 up 0.7

Dollar
Index 107.7 down 1.3
DM12.3492 down 455 pts

Gold
\$471.00 down 50 cents

Money
3 mth sterling 12 1/2-12 3/4
3 mth Euro \$ 17 1/2-17 3/4
6 mth Euro \$ 16 1/2-16 3/4

IN BRIEF

Six times too many for CEI

Electronics group Philips' £16.2m sale offer of 40 per cent of its subsidiary Cambridge Electronic Industries at 75p a share, was oversubscribed by more than six times yesterday. As a result, applications for up to 1,000 shares will be between 1,200 and 2,000 shares will receive 300 while applicants for 2,500 to 3,000 will receive 500. Allocation's go up in stages until applications for 9,000 shares receive 1,500 in all, with applications for 10,000 or more then being allocated 16 per cent of what they sought. Allotment letters will be posted on Wednesday, for dealings in CEI shares to start on Thursday.

Silver price falls
The price of silver fell 37 cents to \$10.20 an ounce on the New York Commodity Exchange today following a United States House of Representatives committee vote to authorize the sale of 105.2 million ounces over the next three years from the American government stockpile. Analysts said the price of gold for June delivery fell \$5 to \$461 an ounce in sympathy with the silver's decline.

Docks deadlock
It now appears unlikely that there will be any moves this week in the two-month deadlock between the Liverpool Port Employers Association and the Transport and General Workers Union over the annual pay award for the 3,500 dockers on the Mersey.

Nuclear stoppage
About 70 skilled craftsmen at Dungeness A nuclear power station in Kent took unofficial strike action yesterday in protest over a new salary structure. The station's two atomic reactors have been out of use for carried out, and so the electricity action was not affecting electricity output.

Chemical sales
Specialized organics—sophisticated chemicals used as components for other parts of the chemical industry—are expected to increase sales by 3 to 4 per cent a year up to 1985, according to a Sector Working Party report released yesterday.

Jobs for Wales
Another 150 jobs for Wales have been announced with the setting up of Alpha Electrostatic Flocking Ltd, which plans to employ 70 people at Bridgend, and the expansion of Morris Colson (Underwear) Ltd, at Penarth to take on an extra 80 workers.

More UK coal aid
The Government was expected to announce additional aid totalling about £200m for the coal industry today. The funds will be used primarily to keep open loss-making pits and match the price of coal imports.

Iran inflation curbs
Mr Mohsen Nourbakhsh, Iran's new central bank governor, said he plans to curb inflation by restricting the amount of money in circulation, and boost confidence in the nationalized banking system.

Wall Street higher
The Dow Jones industrials average closed 5.71 points up to 1911.99. The S&P 500 was 1.5880. The £ was 0.585166.

Heavy dollar selling lifts pound over \$2

Rising hopes that United States interest rates are now on a downward path lifted sterling back to the \$2 level as the dollar ran into heavy selling on foreign exchange markets yesterday.

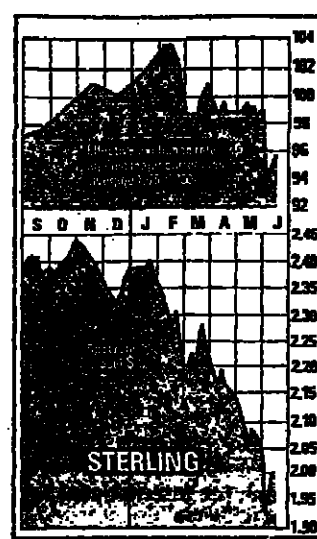
The pound rose steadily throughout the day, touching a high of \$2.0040 before closing with a net gain in London of 4.3 cents at \$2.0020.

However, as news spread of the BNO's cut in the North Sea oil price, sterling ran into selling in early New York trading.

The pound's rise against the dollar in London trading was enough to lift its index against a basket of major currencies by 0.7 to 95.8. The pound's movements against currencies other than the dollar tended to be small and mixed, however.

There were minor gains against the French franc and the Dutch guilder, but marginal falls against both the Deutsche mark (closing at DM4.69) and the Swiss franc.

Both the latter currencies made strong gains at the dollar's expense. The West German currency, which has been under even greater pressure than the pound this year, rose 4.55 pfennigs to DM2.3492. The

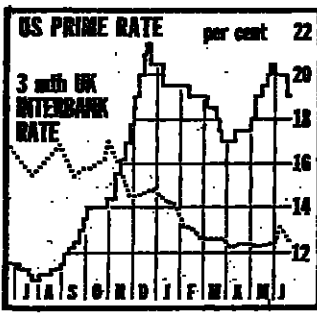


Chemical Bank cuts prime rate

Chemical Bank of New York today cut its commercial prime lending rate to 19 per cent from 20 per cent, while hopes of still lower rates pushed share prices ahead strongly on the New York Stock Exchange.

Leading private economists involved in the financial markets are uncertain about the United States interest rate trend, saying that it would be irresponsible to see Chemical Bank's move, and some rate cuts last week, as pointing clearly to a substantial and sustained drop in American rates.

Interest rates in the United States are now tending to have a strong influence on all international financial markets and there appears to be agreement, at least among Wall Street economists, that interest rate volatility will persist. Some economists see good prospects of lower rates this summer, and



EEC ministers adopt a soft approach to US on inflation

EEC finance ministers agreed here today to step up diplomatic efforts to persuade the United States that high interest rates are not the only means of fighting inflation.

The ministers are to meet again on July 6 to prepare a common EEC position to be put to the Americans at the summit meeting in Ottawa later that month of the non-communist seven biggest industrial nations.

There was also general agreement that little would be served by public criticism of the Americans, and that EEC governments should instead establish what Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, called "a quiet dialogue with Washington to make their concern known."

Herb H. Matthews, the West German Finance Minister, said that the EEC governments accepted that a low American inflation rate was also in their interest, but they felt

Treasury critical over borrowing

The Treasury yesterday launched a strong counter-attack against the growing campaign by nationalized industries for greater freedom to borrow and invest.

Mr Bill Rye, Treasury Permanent Secretary in charge of the home economy, told the House of Commons committee on the Treasury and Civil Service that he was "baffled" by some of the claims which had been made about a government-imposed squeeze on state industry investment.

He said that nationalized industry proposals for investment next financial year were only five per cent higher than the amount which the Government had in any case planned to allow them. He confirmed that many complaints were made about government policy and said that they had not been backed up by hard evidence.

Mr Rye's comments were in sharp contrast with recent statements by heads of the nationalized industries, something which was pointed out by Mr Edward Du Cane,

PRICE CHANGES

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Rises | | | |
| BICC | 14p to 252p | Nelson David | 21p to 104p |
| Cornell Dress | 13p to 163p | Polys Pack | 15p to 32p |
| Dorming GH | 16p to 242p | Standard Chart | 15p to 66p |
| Fisons | 10p to 148p | Staveley Ind | 12p to 25p |
| Land Secs | 13p to 392p | Utd Scientific | 17p to 45p |
| Falls | | | |
| Borthwick T | 2p to 20p | Redfern Nat | 6p to 161p |
| Davies Newcom | 8p to 207p | Steeley | 8p to 311p |
| De La Rue | 15p to 695p | Western Mining | 5p to 137p |
| Harrison Cros | 13p to 812p | Western Air | 10p to 247p |
| Mercantile Hse | 15p to 77p | Wolsey Hughes | 10p to 247p |

One-day strike hits nine Lucas factories

Lucas Aerospace, the most profitable subsidiary in the Lucas Industries group, was yesterday hit by a second 24-hour action involving about half its 12,000 workers. Nine of the company's 11 aerospace factories were affected. The remaining two are threatening an all-out strike beginning June 26. A similar protest was held last month and the men plan to repeat their action in a few weeks.

The issue is Lucas's 5 per cent "take it or leave it" pay offer to all group employees. It is the second year running that management have set a figure and refused to negotiate further.

Aerospace shop stewards are insisting that their increase should reflect the unprecedented levels of efficiency and output they are achieving while working flat out to meet a record order book.

But management has pointed out that when the automotive side of the group was doing well four years ago the aerospace factories were in the depths of a recession. At that time, however, they benefited from the profits being made by the automotive workers and received the same group-wide increase.

Some 2,000 workers at the Wolverhampton and Hall Green, Birmingham, factories ignored yesterday's walkout because they want more militant action. They have given warning that unless management comes to the negotiating table with an increased offer before June 26 they will come out on indefinite strike.

Lucas faces another strike threat over the issuing of a compulsory redundancy notice to Mr Mike Cooley, probably its head shop steward.

Mr Cooley, a former president of Tass, the white-collar section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, was given three months' notice last week for refusing to move to a new job.

He is at present a stress engineer at Lucas Aerospace, Willesden.

High Street trading still buoyant

Trade in Britain's High Streets fell slightly in May, the first full month after the Budget. But the drop in the provisional index of retail sales to 111 from its level of 111.4 last month was less than expected, buoyant than throughout 1980.

The latest estimate for retail sales gives a further blow to Government theories that economic recovery began in the early summer. A combination of falling living standards and a failure to increase personal tax allowances led many consumers to hold back on their spending.

However, so far the signs that retail spending will decline throughout 1981 as a result of falling living standards are less pronounced than most economic forecasters were expecting.

This could turn out to be just a problem of the way the figures are recorded. Estimates for May were revised down by about 1 per cent when final figures were produced.

Merchant bank steps in to British Sugar battle

British Sugar Corporation's merchant bank Schröder Wagg is putting up its own cash in the last ditch battle to keep the group out of the hands of S & W Beristford, the international commodity trader.

The bank bought 505,000 BSC shares on Friday for just under £17m and instructed its stockbrokers Rowe & Pimant to go back into the market yesterday. The move had the effect of

keeping BSC's share price above the 335p level at which Beristford is allowed to make stock-market purchases in support of its £201m takeover bid for the group.

Beristford's offer closed yesterday but has been extended for a further 14 days on a technicality as a result of last week's stock market buying spree which lifted its stake to over 36 per cent.

No petrol price cut despite BNO decision Cheaper North Sea oil

The British National Oil Corporation, the leading trader in North Sea crude, yesterday bowed to pressure from the big oil companies and cut prices by \$4.25 a barrel.

But the reduction, which brings the reference price of a barrel of North Sea oil to \$35, will not alter the decisions of the main petrol companies to raise their United Kingdom pump prices by up to 10p a gallon.

BP Oil, the United Kingdom arm of British Petroleum, said the oil price cut was "excellent news" but while it represented a 4p per gallon reduction in costs the company still needed another 2p decrease across the board to return to profitability. BP Oil said last week it had lost £37m in the first three

International backing for alternative energy

The present glut of oil on world markets must not lull consuming countries into a sense of false security, ministers of the 21 member countries of the International Energy Agency (IEA) affirmed here today.

They agreed to press ahead urgently on measures to avoid sharply higher prices as a result of disruption of oil supplies in the short term. They also renewed their commitment to move swiftly to reduce long-term dependence on oil.

Ministers emphasized that an expanded nuclear programme was crucial to the efforts of many consuming countries to switch away from oil and that every effort had to be made to increase public acceptance of nuclear power. They also repeated calls for greater efforts to expand coal production and encourage energy conservation.

The meeting failed to get a firm commitment from all member countries to price energy supplies on the basis of world market prices or, failing that, long-run replacement costs, as the British Government had hoped. Instead, more behind-the-scenes pressure is likely to be exerted on recalcitrant governments such as Canada, which continues to control energy prices.

Mr David Howell, Energy Secretary, told the meeting that failure to adopt economic pricing would be "wasteful and imprudent." But the British delegation confessed itself "pretty satisfied" that the meeting had agreed the desirability of economic pricing in principle, not just for oil but for all forms of energy, and had condemned subsidies which discouraged energy conservation.

Senior officials from member countries will be taking up the matter as a priority. The British Government, which regards economic pricing as a cornerstone of its own energy policy, is under pressure from parts of British industry which have complained repeatedly of undercutting by competitors who can get their energy supplies more cheaply.

Ministers agreed that the oil market situation remained "fragile." Mr Howell pointed out that the oil glut could be wiped out overnight by a sudden escalation of the Iran/Iraq war.

CSI attacks draft of new shares law

A withering attack on the Government's draft proposals to tighten up the law governing disclosures of interests in shares has been launched by the Council for Securities Industry, the main City watchdog, in its submission to the Secretary of State for Trade.

The CSI describes the drafting as too convoluted and says many of the subsections will be incomprehensible to the ordinary company administrator. Furthermore, many of the clauses are a restatement of existing legislation in a much expanded and less comprehensible form.

The CSI also criticizes the clauses dealing with agreements to acquire shares for dealing with only a part of the field and then entering into great elaboration.

It would seem to be easy to operate outside the statutory provisions and that could make the elaboration look rather foolish," says the CSI, which suggests that the matter of agreements to acquire shares might be best handled with a short provision similar to the amendment which Lord Seebohm proposed in the House of Lords.

The CSI submission, in which it does welcome the fact that the DoT has recognized the need for legislation on "concert parties" was delivered yesterday—within the two-week time limit for submissions. But the Stock Exchange's submission should be delivered today—one day late.

However, the CSI still criticized the two weeks allowed for submissions by the DoT. The CSI said it was unreasonable to expect 40s representatives who have heavy business commitments to comment in a few days on 22 detailed and highly complex clauses.

Merchant bank steps in to British Sugar battle

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ing, engineering and turf accounting. On the face of it, a substantial Irish emigration could be extremely damaging to Britain.

But the Shannon Development spokesman insisted that the aim of the campaign was not to encourage Irishmen to transfer their businesses from Britain to Ireland, but to persuade those who already have a business in Britain to open an additional factory or shop in Ireland. It also hopes to persuade Irish employees in Britain to emigrate to become employers in their homeland.

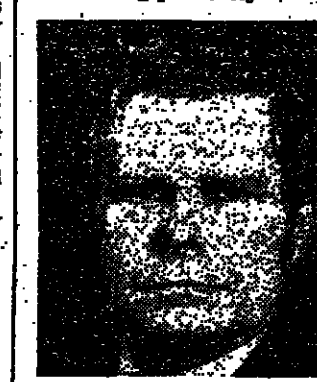
A similar scheme was tried on a much more limited scale last year. Two notable successes then were Mr Joe Kelly, a Birmingham manufacturer of bathroom showers, who was persuaded to open an instant water heater business in Ireland; and Mr Joe Flynn, a former chief pastry-cook at the Cumberland Hotel in London, who opened a confectionery business in Killybeg, Co. Londonderry.

Lesney offshoot is sold

Lesney, the Matchbox toy group which recently reported pretax losses of £10.5m, has sold a subsidiary to its management for a total of £900,000.

The subsidiary is Metal Castings (Worcester) which Lesney bought for £2.3m in May 1978. Four MCW employees have been backed in the deal by Barclays Bank. They are paying £50,000 for the share capital and the rest of the sum pays off inter-company debts. Barclays have an option on MCW shares, but the full details of the deal were not disclosed.

MCW was independent for 49 years until being taken over by the American company Doehler Jarvis in the 1950s and subsequently by Lesney. In its latest accounts, published yesterday, Lesney says MCW suffered further heavy losses last year but Mr Keith Harris, one of the directors of MCW, said it was now trading profitably.



Mr Gordon Hay of Lesney: grounds for optimism.

Altogether, Mr Gordon Hay, Lesney's chairman, calculates there will be a further £2m worth of disposals before the company's streamlining is completed. Most of it will be property. Lesney intends to sell the freehold on the MCW factory as soon as the market allows.

By mutual agreement the board is putting a special resolution to shareholders at the annual meeting that auditors Clark Pitney should be replaced by Price Waterhouse.

Mr Hay declined to comment on the board's reason for this move, saying it would be explained at the meeting. The audit fee for Lesney last year was £191,000.

The accounts also show payments to directors for termination of contracts totalling £171,000, a sum which is divided between five directors who were removed during the boardroom reshuffle in June last year.

European Ferries Limited

Annual General Meeting 15 June 1981

| | 1980 | 1981 |
|--|--------|--------|
| Profit before Taxation, Minority Interests and Extraordinary Items | 30,353 | 27,005 |
| Attributable profit | 26,346 | 26,153 |
| Earnings per Ordinary Share | 20.7p | 22.9p |
| Dividend per Ordinary Share | 5.175p | 4.5p |

Points from the Chairman's Statement

A rights issue is proposed on a 1 for 1 basis at 30p per share.

Shipping Division - Despite vigorous marketing increasing tourist traffic by 50% the drop in profits is attributable to a decline in freight markets, the French fishermen's blockade and the so-called 'price war' led by nationalised competitors at taxpayers' expense.

Harbours Division - Falmouth, where expansion is underway, experienced smaller profits through the decline in international trade. Larne, despite adverse trading conditions, produced good results.

Banking and Property Division - In 1980 we added further financial expertise to the group with the acquisition of 92% of Singer and Friedlander Ltd, the merchant bank, a member of the Accepting Houses Committee. Profits from the sale of the High Holborn Development helped property profits to a new record. 1981 will be aided by first contributions from USA interests.

General - We continue to seek diversification with shareholdings in TV South (20%), Jubilee Oil Co. Ltd. (10%) and the purchase of a golfing and leisure complex at La Manga, Spain.

For the Report and Accounts, details of all Townsend Thoresen services and the Shareholders' Concessionary fare scheme, write to the Secretary, European Ferries Limited, Enterprise House, Ashbury Avenue, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 3TL.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Flight from the dollar

It has taken several sets of better-than-expected United States money supply figures to persuade international markets that the dollar has seen its peak. But yesterday, foreign exchange dealers round the world finally seemed intent on getting out of the United States currency. The expectation, of course, is that dollar interest rates are now on their way down and will continue to move that way over the rest of the summer. Just how justifiable a hope that will prove remains to be seen: the Federal Reserve is presumably keen to avoid yet another round of rapidly falling rates followed by an equally rapid resurgence a few months hence.

In London, the fall in United States rates and the sharp recovery in sterling made it a much brighter day in the gilt-edged market. Gains at the longer end of the market stretched to £14. However, there are still a number of major question-marks as to where gilts can go from here. Signs that the Government may be on the verge of winning its current pay battle with the civil servants is undoubtedly bullish for sentiment. It would be doubly so if the market could feel that such a victory would act as reinforcement for the Thatcherites in the Cabinet when it comes to discussion on where Government economic policy goes from here.

Shorter term, an ending of the civil servants' dispute would lead straight into the problem of funding and money market management over the rest of the summer as outstanding tax payments were cleared. Would tightness in money markets and short-term interest rates hold back a gilt-edged market recovery? Would the Government want to fund heavily given the size of the tax to be recovered? It will be interesting to see how the authorities choose to play their hand and it is worth noting, incidentally, that the 2 per cent index-linked stock is rapidly moving back towards par — the achievement of which would make it that much easier to try a second issue.

jumbo issue there are enough large companies reporting over the next few weeks to make a fairly steady flow of rights issues fairly certain, which is likely to keep the market in its present fragile condition.

● The French bourse seems to be coming to terms with the prospect of a firmly socialist administration with share prices showing little reaction to the socialists' sweeping victory in the elections in marked contrast to the near panic sell-off only a month ago when Mitterrand won the Presidency.

Politically, the poor showing of the Communists has been generally interpreted as a bull point, but the concern all along has been that the socialists will command a Parliamentary majority to give them the free hand in pushing through their widespread nationalization proposals and that they have now secured. But some members of the new administration have been intent to play down the nationalization threat. In the meantime, after two strong years the stock market will have to come to terms with a weak currency and the inflationary consequences both of this and the socialists' economic policy. The outlook for corporate profits also looks unpromising — the huge Saint-Gobain industrial group was warning yesterday of a fall in 1981 earnings — but much depends on the socialists' line on wage demands.

Godfrey Davis Cash to Diversify

Godfrey Davis, helped mainly by its four Ford dealerships, has emerged from one of the duller years for motor distributors with only a small dent to profits. Heavy destocking early last spring put Davis in good stead to beat much of price cutting on falling volumes and pressure on margins ahead of many competitors. So pre-tax profits, the first since the reorganization after the sale of its car rental business to Europcar, came out 17 per cent lower at £2.57m, out of which the Ford dealerships, leasing and contract hire business contributed £2m compared with £2.38m on sales £2m down at £76m.

Much the most interesting aspect of the group is the £22m deal with Europcar, a subsidiary of Renault. Although Davis is still well pleased with the sale it has left the



Mr Cecil Redfern, chairman of Godfrey Davis.

group with one-off losses for the year. There are extraordinary costs at £2.4m to cover a provision for reorganization expenses of £1.7m and deferred taxation of £1.6m, less advance corporation tax recoverable of £954,000 arising from the sale, which leave a net loss of £186,000.

At 74½p, the shares yield 6.7 per cent and are backed by net assets closer to 130p a share and at least maintained profits in the current year. But Davis's entrepreneurial skills will be tested by the way it uses the £5m cash it raised from the Europcar deal (the rest was distributed to shareholders) and at the moment it is only talking vaguely about acquisitions — up to £15m — outside the motor industry.

Peter Norman on the latest report from the Bank for International Settlements

Thumbs down for the monetarists

Basle. Monetarism has become a dirty word for the people who monitor international monetary policy. The Bank for International Settlements yesterday told western governments that they have been wrong to rely mainly on monetary policy to combat inflation.

In its annual report the BIS said that monetary action should be accompanied by a reduction in public sector deficits, the creation of more flexible markets and, if possible, an income policy based on consensus rather than constraint.

The bank is a conservative institution based in the quiet and staid Swiss city of Basel. As the central bankers' bank, it has traditionally been thought of as an institution which is likely to adopt a monetarist approach to economic affairs.

But over the last two years it has become increasingly disenchanted with monetarism. The BIS is now on the side of the economic "wets", largely because of its observations of monetary policy as applied in the United States and Britain.

In its latest annual report the bank has avoided directly criticizing the policies of the British Government. It prefers to let the facts speak for themselves.

There is none of the light-hearted flippancy of last year, when the BIS said that Mrs Thatcher's policies were giving bureaucrats and economists a chance to observe an experiment akin to those always available to natural scientists.

Instead, there is a gloomy chronicle of bad news: recession started earlier in Britain than anywhere else;

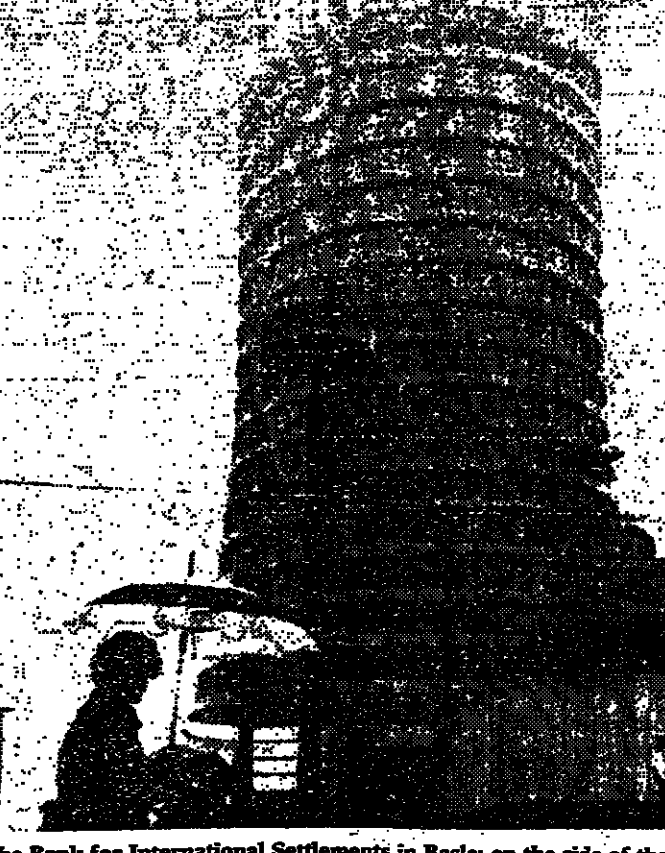
unemployment has risen to more than 10 per cent of the working population; and the country has experienced its sharpest economic setback since the Second World War.

Even more significant is the BIS's concern over United States policies. The adoption of new monetary techniques — which the United States attempts to control the growth of money stock by regulating the volume of reserves available to the banking system — has created an era of "placid" interest rates. In the bank's view the sudden ups and downs of American interest rates are upsetting the United States domestic economy and also causing major international monetary disturbances.

But, while the central bankers' bank is free to express its concern in a diplomatic manner, this does nothing to diminish the problems faced by central banks. Presidents in Europe. Over the past weekend central bank governors from the developing countries, the eastern block and the industrialized world converged on Basel.

Although it was largely a social event, the EEC central bank governors took the opportunity of lobbying their American colleagues to try to achieve moderation in American monetary policy.

Dr Jelle Zijlstra, who is president of the BIS and also president of the Dutch central bank, said at the weekend that he was 100 per cent behind the United States anti-inflationary policies. But he made clear that these are the policies that in his country have led to an unnaturally high real interest rate and a growing number of business failures.



The Bank for International Settlements in Basel: on the side of the economic "wets".

Many European central bankers believe that America is exporting unemployment to the rest of the industrialized world by pursuing a monetary policy which establishes unnaturally high interest rates in many European countries.

Sadly, there is no coherent European response. The central banks and treasuries which are supposed to be working together to adopt a tough counter-inflation policy, are now in no position to complain because the Federal Reserve

has decided that monetary-based techniques are the best way of approaching this end.

While this latest annual report of the BIS is as lucid and literate as ever, its message is likely to fall on deaf ears: it is clearly important to stress, as the bank has done, that a policy which presses down aggregate demand in response to repeated increases in the price of oil and rising wages will create many risks in the political, social and economic spheres.

The BIS could take Britain as an example when it says there are great risks of creating "high unemployment and low rates of industrial utilization which reduce current levels of activity and ultimately undermine profitability and the incentive to invest".

The bank is doing policy-makers a service in saying that monetary policies are not enough and in advocating fair markets. It is important that the bank should also remind the world that more investment capital is needed to create jobs and that public sector deficits must be lowered if there is any chance of a crowding-out of borrowers at capital markets.

The central bankers' bank has sent an important signal to all central banks. It has said that it is sceptical about the monetary base experiment in America and it calls for a better coordination of policies to solve their economic problems at the expense of their trading partners.

But what is ultimately distressing is that the bank can only suggest policy alternatives such as incomes control — which have failed in the past and which cannot succeed unless there is a radical change in individual attitudes.

Pearce Wright

How reliable is the nuclear arithmetic?

A local authority in Suffolk is holding a referendum to discover the attitude of its residents to plans for a second nuclear power station in the district. This unprecedented move by a local authority will test opinion on the Central Electricity Generating Board's controversial proposals to build the first of a series of 1,150 megawatt American-designed reactors, the advanced gas-cooled reactors (AGRs), which will be designated Sizewell B.

A tight timetable has been set because of the CEGB's intention to start building the £1,250m station early in 1982. But there are several formidable difficulties in meeting that target.

The main hurdle comes next year with the public inquiry promised by the Government. It seems of little doubt that the inquiry will be a broader version of the tribunal which examined the scheme to expand the waste nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at British Nuclear Fuels at Windscale in Cumbria.

There are other obstacles to be cleared. The safety of the PWR has to be agreed with the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate before a licence is issued to operate a station. An enormous test dossier presenting the safety case for the CEGB was delivered in April, about three months behind schedule.

Essential safety information covering the design and construction methods and materials is also needed from the main contractor, the National Nuclear Corporation. That dossier has been promised by the end of the year and the Inspectorate test dossier to complete its analysis by May next year, the

target date set for the public release of the safety study. Whereas anti-nuclear objectors are totally opposed to the project on any terms, there are conflicts within the industry which also amount to serious stumbling blocks. There are fundamental differences of opinion about the choice of the PWR over the British-designed second generation nuclear system, the advanced gas-cooled reactor, AGR.

Seven AGR nuclear power stations are operating or under construction in the United Kingdom — Hinkley Point B, Hartlepool, Heysham B, Sizewell A, Trawford, and Torness, each with two AGR reactors of 660 megawatts. The price of the first AGR station ordered in 1965 was £50m. The combined cost of the first two AGR stations for which contracts were finally placed two months ago is £2,500m.

Separate issues are raised by the delay in placing contracts and by the huge escalation in the costs of building nuclear stations. Chief among them is the "knock" effect on the cost of achieving a unit of electricity through the National Nuclear Corporation, representing a complicated amalgam of interests of GEC, the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, and British Nuclear Associates, which includes Taylor Woodrow, Clarke Chapman, Babcock and Wilcox, Alstom, and Westinghouse, and Henshaw.

As part of yet another reorganization of the corporation last year, Mr Denis Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, nominated Mr Denis

Rooney of BICC as the new chairman. But only last month Mr Rooney was effectively squeezed out in a manoeuvre which reflects the continuing internecine struggle between AGR and PWR factions.

The rumour has reached a stage where over the past few days it has been made clear in Whitehall that Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister and Mr Howell see it as a threat to their long-term strategy for the construction of 10 PWR stations — one a year — between 1983 and 1993. The appointment of a sort of moderator, to "knock a few heads together and ensure the PWR programme presses ahead", is being discussed.

In an industry with such a legacy of backbiting, there is obviously difficulty in finding someone acceptable to all sides. The person most strongly tipped for the job is Dr Walter Marshall, chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority, who has also made a special study of the safety of PWR-type reactors.

The advantage claimed for the American PWR-type of reactor is that it is cheaper to build, but there are several reasons why this argument is open to doubt.

In the absence of experience in building and operating PWRs in the United Kingdom much of the evidence about costs, reliability and safety comes from the United States. An examination of these factors is published in a new American study, *Power Plant Cost Escalation*, which looks at the changing capital costs of building nuclear and coal-fired stations and the relative impact on prices of nuclear safety and environmental regulations.

It shows that the average capital costs of nuclear plants completed in the 1970s went up from \$366 per kilowatt of capacity in 1971 to \$587 in 1978, measured in constant 1979 dollars, this represents a rise of 142 per cent greater than the general level of inflation in the United States.

Reactor capital costs were higher mainly because of increased equipment and labour costs, while construction was disrupted through repeated modifications intended to correct design defects and improve safety standards.

Though the reactors under construction in Britain have been different, exactly the same circumstances have surrounded the construction costs in the United Kingdom. Average capital costs for coal-fired plants rose meanwhile from \$346 a kilowatt to \$583 for the same period, according to the study. This was an increase, again, 66 per cent greater than general inflation. Virtually all the increased spending on coal plants went on pollution control equipment to clean the gases before they are emitted into the air.

The lesson which Mr Charles Komanoff, a former member of the New York City Environmental Protection Administration, draws from his study is that efforts to reduce safety problems will lead to a continued escalation of nuclear costs. Dealing with the environmental problems of coal stations will also increase costs, but at a much lower rate.

The technical reason is that safety systems in nuclear plants are complex matters not confined to a few systems, such as gas cleaners in coal plant. Examples of this are already

apparent in the modifications made to nuclear plant after the accident at Three Mile Island and in the adaptation of the American-style PWR to the safety philosophy in Britain.

For instance, Sizewell B is expected to have four, instead of two, independent emergency cooling systems to quench the core of the reactor, should the safety philosophy in Britain occur. An additional wall will also be introduced to provide an extra containment area.

Items of this nature add greatly to cost, though the exact amount is still uncertain. In evidence to the Commons select committee on energy last year the CEGB estimated a cost 34 per cent above the prevailing level in the United States; but more recent calculations apparently now indicate that this could be 50 per cent.

There are comparable alterations to nuclear plant in the United States. For example, it considers will make nuclear plant 75 per cent more costly to build than coal plants before the end of the 1980s. In his estimates, electricity from new reactors will cost at least 25 per cent more than from coal, even assuming fairly low costs for uranium, disposal of radioactive wastes and "decommissioning".

In that calculation coal prices are assumed to rise at 2.5 per cent a year faster than inflation over the next 40 years to pay for safety, health and damage from mining.

*Power Plant Cost Escalation: nuclear and coal capital costs, regulations and economics by Charles Komanoff, published by Energy Associates, 333 West End Avenue, New York, NY 10023, \$295.

ATA Hinton's-A Firm Base for Progress

SALES UP 17.5%

PRE TAX PROFITS UP 44%

EARNINGS PER SHARE UP 34%

THE FOOD SPECIALISTS OF THE NORTH EAST

Highlights of the year 1980/81

- Overall results showed marked improvement. Profit growth in supermarkets. Discount Stores losses now eliminated.
- Competitive consumer prices maintained through better performance by the procurement team, effective control of costs, and improved productivity.
- Small Stores group contributes to profit.
- Successful development of Company Systems.
- Investment in new and existing stores sustained. Further expenditure on operating, control and information systems.

Financial Highlights

| | 1980-81 (£'000) | 1979-80 (£'000) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Group sales | 90,152 | 76,713 |
| Group profit before tax | 1,304 | 878 |
| Earnings per share | 19.35p | 14.45p |
| Dividends per share | 6.0p | 4.0p |
| Dividend cover: Historic cost | 3.2 times | 3.6 times |
| Dividend cover: Current cost | 2.2 times | 2.3 times |

I would like to receive a copy of the 1981 Report and Accounts.

Please complete and return to:
The Secretary, Ames Hinton & Sons Ltd,
PO Box 24, Wether Road, Thornaby,
Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland TS17 0BD.

Name _____

Address _____

ATA Hinton's

Business Diary: ForWard, march

Wallchart

I'M ALWAYS FASCINATED BY PEOPLE'S HOBBIES...

OUR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, IT SEEMS, WRITES MUSIC IN HIS SPARE TIME...

I WOULD IMAGINE HE'D BE VERY GOOD AT WRITING UNFINISHED SYMPHONIES...

Former professional soldier Roy Ward might be considered a glutton for punishment. He abandoned a promising Army career last year to represent Britain's declining carpet industry and this month becomes director general of the Machine Tool Trades Association.

Ward, who is 45, does not see himself, however, fighting a rearguard action to save the beleaguered machine tool industry. The sector is not declining, he said yesterday, but has adapted to changing technological and marketing needs.

He believes that the industry can, with its present workforce of about 45,000, achieve a 20 per cent increase in output when the recession lifts and at least maintain its position as the world's sixth largest producer of machine tools and the eighth largest exporter.

Ward replaces Howard Barrett at the MTTA on Barrett's retirement.

He sees no conflict in being the chief full-time representative of an industry which includes both domestic manufacturers and importers in its ranks. "I think of the members as today's men, getting on with making and selling machine tools and, hopefully, making money."

"The association's officials are tomorrow's men, looking for new opportunities for the industry and representing the industry's view to government."

During 25 years as a regular soldier Ward served with the Royal Corps of Signals eventually rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Frank Howe, the head of commercial relations at the English Tourist Board, is promoting an idea that could one day make life easier and less expensive for travellers.

He is trying to encourage the development in this country of the two-star type of hotel that is catching on in France and The Netherlands. The ETB recently took 15 British hoteliers and caterers to France where they saw hotels in the Ibis group which offer small comfortable rooms with private bathrooms for about £15 a night, including tax and service.

British hotels are usually three-star or higher, Howe says, and are always trying to move up a grade, even though there is a shortage of good two-star accommodation.

Ibis, which has 54 hotels in France and The Netherlands, plans to open 12 more in the next 18 months, including one at Heathrow which might be the first of its kind in Britain.

And if British hoteliers are

getting French lessons, Japan Airlines is giving Japanese companies lessons in English. It is running training courses based on its hostesses' knowledge of handling overseas customers, including the "use of English conversation" and "how to read a customer's mind".

If the hostesses on my last JAL flight could have read my mind, they would have had me locked up in the baggage hold for the rest of trip.

The Burgerworld chain is to open a prototype restaurant in Sarnia, near Windsor, Ontario, where customers will be served by robots.

"Customers will sit at horse-shoe-shaped counters and give their orders directly to the cook on the butcher system. When the order is ready, the cook will program each robot to serve the food. A robot can carry four trays at a time and service nine customers in 72 seconds," Burgerworld explained.

Each robot — there will be three of them at £10,000 each — has interchangeable heads with different flashing lights and personalities so that "customers will not be bored with the same robots all the time".

The developer of the robots, Wayne Obie, said predictably: "They cost less than waitresses, don't go sick, don't ask for raises, don't take coffee breaks and a nice job."

● Congratulations to the planning committee of the London borough of Hammer-smith and Fulham. In a nationwide contest organized by the Royal Town Planning Institute to find prime examples of good design — uncommemorative official language — the committee has swept the board, carrying off both top prizes against stiff competition from S. Delors' Bordenicks' insert "localised" capacity deficiencies.

An extract from one of its

reports was found "almost unbeatable".

"It is considered that further investigations should be carried out into this property before a recommendation could be made to committee concerning the possibility of undertaking a feasibility study."

What did best it was an amendment which the committee approved. It read: "Line S. Delors' Bordenicks' insert 'localised' capacity deficiencies."

● The Hittigious makers of Champagne are championing the legal bit again. Many in Britain will recall the lengthy court actions which the Comité Interprofessionnel du Vin de Champagne (CIVC) pursued against Spanish competitors and against so-called "champagne perry" in the British market.

Now the comité is preparing writs against its own countrymen in its eternal struggle to defend the good name which it claims belongs exclusively to the vines of its region.

Its complaint is that a new brand of cigarette has just been launched in France, called, of course, Champagne.

Joseph Dargant, the CIVC's information officer, whose office in Epernay is decorated with the words "no problems" ranging from outright frauds to such curiosities as "champagne honey", "champagne soap" and "champagne kola", promises that his organization will go to court unless the cigarette is withdrawn.

The CIVC is a determined opponent. It has been pursuing court actions in Canada against American "champagnes" since 1964 and more hearings are due shortly.

Dargant's imminent retirement promises no repose for those who wish to help themselves to a share of champagne's prestige. His successor, André Enders has been crucified from the law firm which handled the comité's actions against Shoveries and Bulters in Britain, among others.

Ross Davies

ATA Hinton's-A Firm Base for Progress

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

| | Market rates (\$/pound sterling, June 15) | Market rates (£/100 francs, June 15) |
|-----------|---|---|
| New York | \$1.7275-0.0050 | \$3.0015 |
| Montreal | \$1.7275-0.0050 | 3.0015 |
| Amsterdam | 5.20-5.2011 | 5.22-5.23 |
| Brussels | 76.25-77.16 | 76.90-77.00 |
| Stockholm | 1.47-1.4711 | 1.47-1.4711 |
| Dublin | 1.2705-1.2800 | 1.2835-1.2840 |
| Frankfurt | 4.7055-4.7155 | 4.69-4.695 |
| London | 1.00-1.00 | 1.00-1.00 |
| Madrid | 188.25-188.30 | 188.40-188.45 |
| Paris | 16.65-16.6511 | 16.70-16.7011 |
| Oslo | 11.60-11.70 | 11.65-11.6511 |
| Paris | 11.15-11.25 | 11.20-11.2011 |
| Tokyo | 2.32-2.3211 | 10.60-10.6011 |
| Osaka | 492-492 | 4320-4320 |
| Zurich | 33.60-33.6011 | 33.65-33.6511 |
| Zurich | 4.41-4.4111 | 4.08-4.0811 |

Effective exchange rate compared to 1990

Indices

| | Bank of England Index | Morgan Guaranty Index | Changes |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Dutch guilders | -95.8 | -26.8 | + |
| US dollar | 107.7 | +1.34 | + |
| Canadian dollar | 114.4 | +17.5 | + |
| Schilling | 111.6 | +60.7 | + |
| Belgian franc | 106.7 | +6.5 | + |
| Swiss franc | 105.0 | +1.0 | + |
| Deutsche mark | 110.7 | +0.7 | S |
| Italian lire | 105.0 | +1.0 | + |
| Guilder | 138.4 | -1.4 | N |
| French franc | 82.5 | -11.8 | F |
| Yen | 87.6 | +3.6 | F |
| Yen | 144.9 | +39.4 | J |

Based on trade weighted average
from Washington agreement
December 1980-1981
(Bank of England Index 100).

EMS Currency Rates

| | ECU currency central. against rates | % change from r |
|---------------|---|--------------------------|
| Belgian franc | 40.7385 | 41.3431 |
| Dutch guilder | 7.2101 | 7.0455 |
| German D-mark | 2.54502 | 2.53768 |
| French franc | 2.93626 | 2.63785 |
| Italian lire | 2.336 | 2.3361 |
| Irish punt | 0.66235 | 0.92112 |
| Italian lira | 1262.55 | 1261.26 |

† adjusted for changes for the ECU therefore
+ adjusted for sterling's weight in the
divergence limits.
Adjustment calculated by The Times.

Euro-\$ Deposits

(%) calls, 18-18; seven days,
18-18; one month, 18-18; three
months, 17-17; six months, 16-16.

[illegible]

| Forward | | | Other Markets | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------|---|---------------|----------|
| rates | | | | | |
| 1 month | 3 months | | Australia | | |
| 1.55-1.56c disc | 2.40-2.50c disc | | Bahrain | | |
| 1.56-1.57c disc | 2.95-3.10c disc | | Finland | | |
| 1/2 prem-3/4 disc | 1/2-3/4 prem | | Greece | | |
| 20-30c disc | 65-75c disc | | Hong Kong | | |
| 415-425 | 70-75c disc | | Iran | | |
| 33-45p disc | 90-110c disc | | Kuwait | | |
| 1/2 prem-3/4 disc | 1/2 prem-3/4 disc | | Malaysia | | |
| 1.56-1.57c disc | 2.40-2.50c disc | | Mexico | | |
| 120-105c disc | 310-355c disc | | New Zealand | | |
| 27-30c disc | 65-75c disc | | Saudi Arabia | | |
| 100-105p prem | 40-150p prem | | Singapore | | |
| 12-13c disc | 25-35c disc | | South Africa | | |
| 300-350c disc | 720-2200c disc | | | | |
| 1.70-1.35c prem | 5.40-4.85p prem | | | | |
| 5 prem-10p disc | 5 prem-10p disc | | | | |
| 1/4-1c prem | 20-30c disc | | | | |
| 1/2, was up 6.97 at 95.3 | | | | | |
| Dollar Spot Rates | | | Money Market Rates | | |
| 1 pound | 1.5400-1.5450 | | Bank of England MLR 12% | | |
| 2 pound | 1.5250-1.5287 | | (Last changed 10/3/81) | | |
| hefeylands | 2.0175-2.0225 | | Clearing Banks Base Rate 15% | | |
| 3 month | 58.43-58.45 | | Discount Mk Loans* | | |
| 6 month | 7.4150-7.4300 | | Overnight High 13 | | |
| Germany | 2.8450-2.8500 | | Week Fixed: 10% | | |
| France | 23.98-24.00 | | | | |
| Italy | 177-177.5 | | Treasury Bills (D) | | |
| Spain | 5.8250-5.8630 | | 1 month | 12% | |
| Switzerland | 5.9150-5.9300 | | 3 months | 12% | |
| Japan | 10.9300-10.9350 | | 6 months | 12% | |
| Australia | 219.55-220.15 | | Prime Bank Bills (D) 1/4% | | |
| Canada | 11.60-11.65 | | 2 months | 12 1/4-12 1/2 | |
| Argentina | 1.385-1.395 | | 3 months | 12 1/2-12 3/4 | |
| 2 overnight | 2.0000-2.0450 | | 4 months | 12 1/2-12 3/4 | |
| | | | 6 months | 12 1/2-12 3/4 | |
| 1 pound quoted in US currency. | | | | | |
| Canada \$1 = US \$0.8315-0.8315 | | | | | |
| Interest Rates | | | Local Authority Rates | | |
| annual % change | divergence | limit % | 1 month <td>12-12 1/2</td> <td>7 month</td> | 12-12 1/2 | 7 month |
| annual adjusted* | plus/minus | | 2 months <td>12 1/2-13</td> <td>8 month</td> | 12 1/2-13 | 8 month |
| 3 month | | | 3 months <td>12 1/2-13</td> <td>9 month</td> | 12 1/2-13 | 9 month |
| 4 month | | | 4 months <td>12 1/2-13</td> <td>10 month</td> | 12 1/2-13 | 10 month |
| 5 month | | | 5 months <td>12 1/2-13</td> <td>11 month</td> | 12 1/2-13 | 11 month |
| 6 month | | | 6 months <td>12-12 1/2</td> <td>12 month</td> | 12-12 1/2 | 12 month |
| 7 month | | | | | |
| 8 month | | | | | |
| 9 month | | | | | |
| 10 month | | | | | |
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| 53 month | | | | | |
| 54 month | | | | | |

| 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031 | 2032 | 2033 | 2034 | 2035 | 2036 | 2037 | 2038 | 2039 | 2040 | 2041 | 2042 | 2043 | 2044 | 2045 | 2046 | 2047 | 2048 | 2049 | 2050 | 2051 | 2052 | 2053 | 2054 | 2055 | 2056 | 2057 | 2058 | 2059 | 2060 | 2061 | 2062 | 2063 | 2064 | 2065 | 2066 | 2067 | 2068 | 2069 | 2070 | 2071 | 2072 | 2073 | 2074 | 2075 | 2076 | 2077 | 2078 | 2079 | 2080 | 2081 | 2082 | 2083 | 2084 | 2085 | 2086 | 2087 | 2088 | 2089 | 2090 | 2091 | 2092 | 2093 | 2094 | 2095 | 2096 | 2097 | 2098 | 2099 | 2100 | 2101 | 2102 | 2103 | 2104 | 2105 | 2106 | 2107 | 2108 | 2109 | 2110 | 2111 | 2112 | 2113 | 2114 | 2115 | 2116 | 2117 | 2118 | 2119 | 2120 | 2121 | 2122 | 2123 | 2124 | 2125 | 2126 | 2127 | 2128 | 2129 | 2130 | 2131 | 2132 | 2133 | 2134 | 2135 | 2136 | 2137 | 2138 | 2139 | 2140 | 2141 | 2142 | 2143 | 2144 | 2145 | 2146 | 2147 | 2148 | 2149 | 2150 | 2151 | 2152 | 2153 | 2154 | 2155 | 2156 | 2157 | 2158 | 2159 | 2160 | 2161 | 2162 | 2163 | 2164 | 2165 | 2166 | 2167 | 2168 | 2169 | 2170 | 2171 | 2172 | 2173 | 2174 | 2175 | 2176 | 2177 | 2178 | 2179 | 2180 | 2181 | 2182 | 2183 | 2184 | 2185 | 2186 | 2187 | 2188 | 2189 | 2190 | 2191 | 2192 | 2193 | 2194 | 2195 | 2196 | 2197 | 2198 | 2199 | 2200 | 2201 | 2202 | 2203 | 2204 | 2205 | 2206 | 2207 | 2208 | 2209 | 2210 | 2211 | 2212 | 2213 | 2214 | 2215 | 2216 | 2217 | 2218 | 2219 | 2220 | 2221 | 2222 | 2223 | 2224 | 2225 | 2226 | 2227 | 2228 | 2229 | 2230 | 2231 | 2232 | 2233 | 2234 | 2235 | 2236 | 2237 | 2238 | 2239 | 2240 | 2241 | 2242 | 2243 | 2244 | 2245 | 2246 | 2247 | 2248 | 2249 | 2250 | 2251 | 2252 | 2253 | 2254 | 2255 | 2256 | 2257 | 2258 | 2259 | 2260 | 2261 | 2262 | 2263 | 2264 | 2265 | 2266 | 2267 | 2268 | 2269 | 2270 | 2271 | 2272 | 2273 | 2274 | 2275 | 2276 | 2277 | 2278 | 2279 | 2280 | 2281 | 2282 | 2283 | 2284 | 2285 | 2286 | 2287 | 2288 | 2289 | 2290 | 2291 | 2292 | 2293 | 2294 | 2295 | 2296 | 2297 | 2298 | 2299 | 2300 | 2301 | 2302 | 2303 | 2304 | 2305 | 2306 | 2307 | 2308 | 2309 | 2310 | 2311 | 2312 | 2313 | 2314 | 2315 | 2316 | 2317 | 2318 | 2319 | 2320 | 2321 | 2322 | 2323 | 2324 | 2325 | 2326 | 2327 | 2328 | 2329 | 2330 | 2331 | 2332 | 2333 | 2334 | 2335 | 2336 | 2337 | 2338 | 2339 | 2340 | 2341 | 2342 | 2343 | 2344 | 2345 | 2346 | 2347 | 2348 | 2349 | 2350 | 2351 | 2352 | 2353 | 2354 | 2355 | 2356 | 2357 | 2358 | 2359 | 2360 | 2361 | 2362 | 2363 | 2364 | 2365 | 2366 | 2367 | 2368 | 2369 | 2370 | 2371 | 2372 | 2373 | 2374 | 2375 | 2376 | 2377 | 2378 | 2379 | 2380 | 2381 | 2382 | 2383 | 2384 | 2385 | 2386 | 2387 | 2388 | 2389 | 2390 | 2391 | 2392 | 2393 | 2394 | 2395 | 2396 | 2397 | 2398 | 2399 | 2400</ |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|

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advance as Citibank climbed 3 1/2 to 57 1/2 in active trading. Southern Commercial Bank rose 1/2 to 57 1/2. AT and T rose 3/4 to 57 1/2 in active trading. Southern Commercial Bank was the day's most active stock, tacking on 3 1/2 to 57 1/2.

Car stocks generally were higher for the first 10 days in June. Industry leader GM, which sold sales of 100,000 in peak time during the week over last year, added 1 1/2 to 57. Ford had lower sales but returned to record volume. The stock climbed 1 1/2 to 24 1/2. Chrysler recorded a 30 per cent increase in sales, which was unchanged at 64. Several Japanese concerns received sizable gains, attributed partly to the yen's rise. Toyota rose 1 1/2 to 24 1/2. Honda rose 1 1/2 to 57 1/2 while Matsushita climbed three to 24 1/2.

Standard Oil of California (Calumet) for the Texas and New Mexico oil fields stream technology. Sunoco said the move will raise development costs. Exxon rose 1 1/2 to 24 1/2. Gulf Oil added 1 1/2 to 24 1/2. Amoco, which said it had a natural gas find in Texas, slipped to 33 1/2. Reuter.

US commodities

| | Old | New | Old | New | Old | New |
|-------------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| SOYBEANS | 33.50 | 34.00 | JULY | 34.50 | 34.00 | 34.50 |
| WHEAT | 1.00 | 1.00 | JULY | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| CORN | 1.00 | 1.00 | JULY | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| COFFEE | 1.00 | 1.00 | JULY | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| TEA | 1.00 | 1.00 | JULY | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| PEPPER | 1.00 | 1.00 | JULY | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| SPICES | 1.00 | 1.00 | JULY | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| MEATS | 1.00 | 1.00 | JULY | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| POULTRY | 1.00 | 1.00 | JULY | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| EGGS | 1.00 | 1.00 | JULY | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| GRAIN | 1.00 | 1.00 | JULY | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| VEGETABLES | 1.00 | 1.00 | JULY | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| FRUITS | 1.00 | 1.00 | JULY | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| MINERALS | 1.00 | 1.00 | JULY | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| ENERGY | 1.00 | 1.00 | JULY | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| COMMODITIES | 1.00 | 1.00 | JULY | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |

SOYBEANS futures were up 35.10 to 35.10. WHEAT futures were up 1.00 to 1.00. CORN futures were up 1.00 to 1.00. COFFEE futures were up 1.00 to 1.00. TEA futures were up 1.00 to 1.00. PEPPER futures were up 1.00 to 1.00. SPICES futures were up 1.00 to 1.00. MEATS futures were up 1.00 to 1.00. POULTRY futures were up 1.00 to 1.00. EGGS futures were up 1.00 to 1.00. GRAIN futures were up 1.00 to 1.00. VEGETABLES futures were up 1.00 to 1.00. FRUITS futures were up 1.00 to 1.00. MINERALS futures were up 1.00 to 1.00. ENERGY futures were up 1.00 to 1.00. COMMODITIES futures were up 1.00 to 1.00.

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Gilts lead the way

3 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

| RECENT ISSUES | | Listing Price |
|---|-----------|---------------------------|
| AIAD Residential 100 Ord (15) | | 20 1/8 |
| BOC 5% Govt Uans 100 Ord (12004) | | 2 1/8 pm |
| Coughlin Corp 5% Jan 1983-90 (100) | | 20 1/8 |
| Intalan 10% 0rds | | 20 |
| Intalan Prope 5% Jan 1980-85 (100) | | 21 1/8 |
| Leeds (City of) 5 1/2% Feb 1980-85 (100) | | 20 1/8 |
| Lon Shop Prope 5% Dec 1979-90 (1200) | | 21 1/8 |
| Munitor 10% 0rds | | 20 1/8 |
| Murray Technology 250 Ord (100) | | 19 1/8 |
| Newcastle Water 10% Feb 81 Feb 1986 (100) | | 20 1/8 |
| Palmco 5% 0rds | | 20 1/8 |
| Swansea (City of) 12 1/2% Feb 1980 (100) | | 23 1/8 |
| Treasury 11 1/2% 1985 (100) | | 19 1/8 |
| | | Latest date of renewal |
| RIGHTS ISSUES | | |
| Allied Irish Bank (IRL) | July 1984 | 164 pm |
| Broken Hill Copper (175) | Apr 84 | 8100 |
| Change Water (ntd) | July 84 | 39 1/2 |
| CRK 2000's | July 84 | 254 pm |
| CRK 2000's | July 84 | 254 pm |
| NEI (700) | July 84 | 53 1/8 |
| <p>Issue price in parentheses. * Ex dividend. Issued by tender: * N10 paid, a 550 paid, a 120 paid. Fully paid: a 120 paid, a 120 paid, a 120 paid.</p> | | |

**No decision
until it
is delivered**

مکمل

PERSONAL CHOICE



Bernie Winters and Leslie Crowther as Flanagan and Allen in ITV's biography of the long-running music hall partnership, Bud 'n' Ches (8.30pm).

● **BUD 'N' CHES** (ITV 8.30pm) traces the story of one of the most famous music hall acts — Flanagan and Allen. In the story, written by Sid Colin, Bernie Winters plays Robert Winthrop, alias Bud Flanagan — a name he took from his hated sergeant of the First World War — and Leslie Crowther as Ches Allen. Their initial meeting was in a cafe in France during World War One but they did not become a partnership until after Bud had tried his luck solo without much success. The great Florrie Forde was instrumental in their forming a partnership. She was being managed by Ches and, as his partner was leaving, she suggested that he talk to Bud to see if he would become the replacement. From then on they flourished. The programme shows their most famous stage sketches, their songs and banter and the formation of the Crazy Gang. Ches' illness finished the act but Bud carried on working as hard, only this time raising a lot of money for leukaemia research in memory of his son who died of the disease. The simple humour of the pair comes over brilliantly making it a wonderful occasion to wallow in nostalgia.

● **IMAGES OF WAR** (BBC 7.30pm) is a personal account, in words and pictures of two of the war's most famous cameramen, a recently retired BBC cameraman, was one of the few cameramen with the Airborne Forces when the Allies attempted to capture the bridge at Arnhem. His film shows how lucky he was to survive. But after having gone through all that he was sent a few weeks later to the notorious Belgian concentration camp and what he saw there made a greater impression on him than anything else in his life.

● **OTHER PEOPLE'S RADIO** (Radio 4 4.00pm) gives listeners a rare opportunity to compare the quality of the BBC's morning programmes with those of other English speaking stations around the world. Libby Furves is the presenter of this first programme and she plays a broad cross-section of tapes that have been collected by the programme producer, John Skrive, over the past few months. He believes that many are boring compared to our own but those from radio stations in the Caribbean seem to relate more to their audience and are a lot of fun. In his search for material Skrive met many varying styles of presentation and, in one case, came across a station in Colorado which is powered successfully, and profitably, by a windmill. The types of programme being compared in the other three programmes are advice, which will be presented by Claire Rayner, community radio, by Gillian Reynolds and religious broadcasting by Peter France.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: *STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; (r) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Dear

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.40 am Open University: Insect Hormones, 7.05 A Local Government System, 7.30 Infection in Action. Closedown at 7.55.
9.05 For Schools, Colleges: French conversation, 9.35 Circles, 9.58 Caricature Game, 10.38 Religion and Moral education, 11.00 Animals in Danger, 11.17 Television Club. Closedown at 11.37.
1.15pm News.
1.30 The Plumps, Grandfather's Birthday narrated by Gay Soper (r). Closedown at 1.45.
1.50 You and Me. For four and five-year-olds (r).
2.14 For Schools, Colleges: Leisure in Spain, 2.32 Merry-go-round. Closedown at 2.37.
3.20 Pabot y Cym. Welsh serial, 3.55 Play School for under-fives (shown earlier on BBC 2).
4.20 Janna of the Jungle. Animated adventures of a resourceful feline of the Mattu Grosso (r). 4.40 The Record

BBC 2

6.40 am Open University: A Matter of Fact? 7.05 From School to Industry, 7.30 History of Mathematics. Closedown at 7.55.
10.30 Supervisors. The seventh of eight documentaries on the problems facing supervisors in industry (r).
11.00 Play School. Presented by Elizabeth Millbank and Don Spencer. The story is the traditional King Canute and it is read by Sam Kydd. Closedown at 11.15.
2.15pm Racing from Royal Ascot. Julian Wilson introduces the 2.30, 3.05, 3.45 and 4.20 events. The commentators are Peter O'Sullivan, Jimmy Lynam and John Hume. The fashions are described by Eve Pollard. Closedown at 4.35.
4.50 Open University: BART 3: Systems Engineering, 5.15 Modern Art from 1848, 5.40 A new look at Bonding, 6.05 Knotley Fields, 1. 6.30 Alcoholism. Apart.
6.55 The Great Egg Race introduced by Hilary Henson.

Thames

9.30 am For Schools: Simple mathematics, 9.47 Natural history, 10.04, The cello, 10.30 Maths for seven- to nine-year olds, 11.22 Beginners' Chess, 11.30 Chief Constable Ronald Gregory is questioned on Respect and Authority, 12.00 Cockleshell Bay: The Cockle twins go to a concert, 12.10pm Puppets for young people, 12.30 The Sullivan: Drama Series about an Australian family during the Second World War.
1.00 News read: by Peter Scudamore, 1.20 Thames News, 1.30 About the British Isles, 1.40 News, 1.50 News, 1.55 News, 2.00 News, 2.05 News, 2.10 News, 2.15 News, 2.20 News, 2.25 News, 2.30 News, 2.35 News, 2.40 News, 2.45 News, 2.50 News, 2.55 News, 3.00 News, 3.05 News, 3.10 News, 3.15 News, 3.20 News, 3.25 News, 3.30 News, 3.35 News, 3.40 News, 3.45 News, 3.50 News, 3.55 News, 4.00 News, 4.05 News, 4.10 News, 4.15 News, 4.20 News, 4.25 News, 4.30 News, 4.35 News, 4.40 News, 4.45 News, 4.50 News, 4.55 News, 5.00 News, 5.05 News, 5.10 News, 5.15 News, 5.20 News, 5.25 News, 5.30 News, 5.35 News, 5.40 News, 5.45 News, 5.50 News, 5.55 News, 6.00 News, 6.05 News, 6.10 News, 6.15 News, 6.20 News, 6.25 News, 6.30 News, 6.35 News, 6.40 News, 6.45 News, 6.50 News, 6.55 News, 7.00 News, 7.05 News, 7.10 News, 7.15 News, 7.20 News, 7.25 News, 7.30 News, 7.35 News, 7.40 News, 7.45 News, 7.50 News, 7.55 News, 8.00 News, 8.05 News, 8.10 News, 8.15 News, 8.20 News, 8.25 News, 8.30 News, 8.35 News, 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Children's cardiac unit may be doomed

By Christopher Warman, Local Government Correspondent

Photograph by Malcolm Clarke

Kate O'Mara, who is playing Beatrice in "Much Ado About Nothing" at the Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park.

Cabinet

Continued from page 1

Anti-monetarists among ministers were pleased when they persuaded the Prime Minister, before Easter, to allow them their say at tomorrow's meeting, with the half promise of further meetings later. But they noted with some dismay that Mrs Thatcher has also called a special meeting later this month of monetary advisers from the City University, with a view to improving rather than relaxing the system of control.

It has been made clear to ministers that tomorrow's agenda is for discussion, not decision. Nor will there be

Prime Minister due for talks in Downing Street at noon, the meeting is due to last about two-and-a-quarter hours. That will give each Cabinet minister, assuming that each wishes to contribute, some six or seven minutes.

Veterans of Mr Heath's Cabinet recall economic debates in which every member could join, being held twice a year between 1970 and 1974. They voice astonishment at Mrs Thatcher's failure, before now, to seek support from powerful ministers who do not sit on the Cabinet's main economic committee, and they believe

MIDDAY: a cloudy day with

Regina 1 47 02 Mexico 5 29 00 San Paulo